



SERMON NOTES

Pause and Focus - Where Are We At?

Ben Wickel // 1-14-23

APOSTLES, PROPHETS, EVANGELISTS, SHEPHERDS, TEACHERS

Ephesians 4:1-16

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”

(In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave **the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ**, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

THE TEACHING MINISTRY

- Makes sure the Church is being instructed in the Word of God (Bible)

- Doesn't just teach "content" but imparts a passion for the Word and trains people to study the Word so they can be "self-feeders".

The Teaching Ministry in ACC Raleigh

- Sunday Mornings
- Life Groups
- ADS

Teaching Ministry: How Can We Grow?

- Raise up other Teachers
- Every member is delighting in the Word.

THE SHEPHERDING MINISTRY

- nurtures spiritual, emotional, and relational health among the church.
- Exercises patience, counseling, acceptance, hospitality, mercy, compassion, sacrifice, encouragement.
- Culture of Belonging

The Shepherding Ministry in ACC Raleigh

- Life Groups
- Families Pastors
- Kids Pastor
- Youth Pastor
- RTF Ministry
- CARE Team

Shepherding Ministry: How Can We Grow?

- Discipling people through Trauma/Crisis
- Physical Healing Ministry
- Young Adults
- 55+ Members

THE MINISTRY OF EVANGELISM

- Bring contagious compassion for the “Lost”
- “Some wish to stay within the sound of church or chapel bell. I’d rather run a rescue shop within a yard of hell. C. T. STUDD”

Evangelism in ACC Raleigh

- NC State Campus Ministry
- Alpha Ministry

Evangelism: How can we Grow?

- Every member is trained and actively “Blessing” their lost neighbors, co-workers, friends, and family members.
- Reaching out to vulnerable members of our city.

Dr. Michael Brown- “Unfortunately, as worldliness and compromise and lethargy and complacency have set in among us, we, the followers of Jesus, have lost sight of our mission, our task, and our calling, instead putting almost all the emphasis on ourselves—our lives, our needs, our desires, our goals, our aspirations, our dreams. We forget about the Father’s love for the lost; we forget about the Son’s sacrifice for the lost; we forget about the Spirit’s mission to the lost. We backslide! In fact, one of the surest signs of a backslidden heart is the lack of burden for the lost.”

THE PROPHETIC MINISTRY

- stresses “what is God Saying to His people”
- They help the body stay connected to the voice of God and the heart of God.
- Equip every member to hear the voice of God.
- Calls the people to turn back to God from complacency and idolatry.

The Prophetic in ACC Raleigh

- Life Group Culture
- Bon Fire Nights
- Intercessory Prayer

Prophetic Ministry: How can we Grow?

- More of an “Open Heaven” over our Sunday Mornings, Small Groups, Encounter Nights, Prayer Meetings, etc.

THE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY

- Literal meaning= “sent”
- Pioneers- Breaking New Territory
- Create Culture

Apostolic Ministry in ACC Raleigh

- We are part of an Apostolic Movement
- Church Planting Initiative: Mountains to Sea
- Current season of codifying our cultural values

Apostolic Ministry: How can we Grow?

- Future Church Planting Teams
- Jerusalem Mandate