

1. [1] We're going to be leaning in to some more testimonies and interactions during our sermon times.
 - a. Not only have I heard from many of yall that you appreciate those times in particular when we've done the before. How they encourage you and spur you on
 - b. It's also a way to worship God by testifying to what he's doing in our lives.
 - c. But I also believe that they help us to remember and more actively apply the teachings to our lives.
2. Last week Testimonies – 5 min
 - a. Basic QA
 - i. New series is called what
 1. [2] Once someone answers: (Reaching Out with Mission)
 - ii. Last week's sermon was called what
 1. [3] Once someone answers: You Give Them Something to Eat.
 - iii. What was the story in the bible we studied
 - iv. What was the big idea of the teaching for us?
 - b. What stuck out to you from last Sunday's sermon?
 - i. What has God been saying to you or inviting you to notice?
 - ii. What is holding you back from living on mission?
3. Today we're going to build on that sermon from last week
4. Read scripture: (JAMIE SMITH)
 - a. [4] Eph 4:11-16 ESV
 - b. ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ 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, ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ 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.
5. PRAY
6. My parents raised me to be conservative with my money.
 - a. So rather than just pay someone to fix something when it breaks, or to build something that you want, first see if you can do it yourself
 - b. So as I've grown up, and become a homeowner (well.... Partial homeowner)
 - i. I've continued this impulse as an act of what feels to me like good stewardship.
 - ii. So when something breaks or needs built, I try to do it myself
 - iii. Sometimes this goes really well, sometimes not so much.

iv. And it typically means projects take a good bit longer for me to get to completing

1. SORRY JENN!

- c. But all this means, I've come to love to go to the hardware store. Whether menards or home depot. So many tools I "need" – supplies that I could affix somewhere to my house.
- d. And when I'm fixing something at my house I ALWAYS try to do the impossible. Go to the hardware store ONCE.
- e. But I'm not sure I've ever successfully accomplished this mythical feat.
 - i. I always go back at least once.... Usually multiple extra times. For things I forgot. Things I didn't know I needed.
 - ii. To troubleshoot. Issues that arise
 - iii. To get MORE mulch.

7. Home Depot:

a. [5] Motto: You can do it. We can help.

- b. Think about what Home Depot is saying. They don't build your deck for you. They don't renovate your kitchen or fix your plumbing. Instead, they provide the tools, the training, and the support so **you** can do the work.
- c. Home Depot provides **training, tools, and support**—but they expect you to do the work.
- d. Imagine someone walking into Home Depot and saying:
 - i. *"I need a new deck. Can you come to my house and build it?"*
 - ii. They'd say: *"No, but we'll resource and equip you to build it yourself!"*
- e. My apron = Deacon Doerksen.
 - i. His name means minister! The original word "diakonias" in
 - ii. [6] **EPHESIANS 4:11-12**
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
 - 1. ...for the MINISTRY we're called to do as believers!
- f. Because this is such a perfect example for what God is teaching us through this passage in Ephesians.
- g. So many of us come in to church (mostly because its what we've been taught explicitly or implicitly) that church is a place where the Pastors and staffers do the ministry and sometimes we can help
 - i. The pastor preaches, staff leads.
 - ii. I just come attend, give money, maybe volunteer here and there, then go home.
 - iii. We (leaders) can do it, you (church ppl) can help.
- h. But God through Paul is teaching us that actually his vision for the church is more like home depot: You (church ppl) can do it, we (leaders) can help.
- i. THIS IS a giant shift in perspective about the function and vision of the church

- i. From the Pastors do the ministry
 - ii. To the I do the ministry
 - 1. WAIT, isn't that for the SAINTS?
 - 2. Saints isn't Super Christians, it's ALL BELIEVERS (made righteous by Christ)
- j. WHAT IS MINISTRY?
 - i. Because if ministry is what the pastor does on Sunday mornings, then how am I supposed to do that?
 - ii. **[7] Eph 2:10**
 - 1. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
 - a. We are God's Handiwork, masterpiece, craftsmanship!
 - iii. Ministry = Good Works that God has prepared in advance for each of us to do in our world
 - iv. Any and all of the thousands of subtasks required to fulfill the mission of Christ from
 - 1. **[8] Matthew 28:19-20** 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
 - 2. Reaching everyone with the good news of Jesus. Welcoming them into the body of Christ, the church. Helping them and one another grow in maturity in Christ. Practicing loving one another and living like he modeled. And multiplying disciples, leaders, and communities committed to doing the same.
 - 3. THIS IS THE MINISTRY – the Great WORK!
 - a. And JESUS IS UP TO IT, THROUGH HIS PEOPLE, THE CHURCH
 - v. More about this shift next week
- 8. Last week, we discovered that Jesus wanted his disciples to be the ones to give the hungry people something to eat. To see the need. Have compassion (SPLAGNON) even when they're tired and annoyed. Bring their meager resources and skills to Jesus, and then let HIM multiply their offering to make it more than enough to meet the spiritual needs of the people around them.
- 9. This week we're reinforcing the idea that the ministry is not something the leaders do, it's what the church people, regular disciples, Christfollowers are supposed to do.
 - a. And that the job of the leaders of various types is instead to help equip, train, encourage, teach, cast vision, direct, enable, raise up the people in their church to reach out in works of ministry that God calls them to.
 - b. So that the Body of Christ Grows
 - i. And his Kingdom spreads throughout the earth!
- 10. YOU CAN DO IT. WE CAN HELP.
 - a. THIS IS A LOT DIFFERENT FROM OUR DEFAULT EXPECTATIONS ABOUT CHURCH
- 11. Let's go back to the 2 primary paradigms of church
 - a. **[9] Institutional (OT)**

- i. This is the one most believers are most familiar with
 - ii. Many think pastors and leaders are hired to “do ministry,”
 - 1. They stand between God and the congregants
 - 2. Who come close once a week on Sundays
 - 3. And the leaders DO THE MINISTRY – which is giving the people a sermon from God.
 - 4. And perhaps caring for their needs with spiritual guidance and wisdom.
 - iii. Church is an audience
 - 1. Sitting in rows
 - 2. Waiting
 - 3. Sitting
 - 4. Sleeping
 - 5. Receiving
 - 6. Consuming
 - 7. And then going back to their real lives.

b. [10] Organic (NT)

- i. This one is less familiar. Can seem messy. Confusing. Unfamiliar. Uncomfortable.
 - ii. But the Bible says the primary role of leaders is to *equip* THE PEOPLE to do the ministry
 - iii. Ministry is not a spectator sport! The church isn’t an audience,
 - 1. It’s a workforce! A work crew!
 - iv. Everyone is involved.
 - 1. Leaders have a role
 - a.
 - 2. But so does everyone else
 - v. Everyone is active
 - 1. Engaged. Connected
 - vi. Contributing.
 - 1. In varied ways.
 - vii. But they all work together to build up the body, the cell, SO THAT IT GROWS

12. The Church Grows When Everyone Ministers

a. [11] Ephesians 4:13-16

- b. ¹³ 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, ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ 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.

c. Spiritual Maturity Comes through MINISTERING

- d. Many Christians feel bored and stagnant in their faith because they're just receiving instead of participating.
 - i. We're used to coming to church with a consumer mindset.
 - ii. I'm here to consume. Feed. Get what I want, need at lowest cost to myself.
- e. Spiritually constipated, all input and no output!
 - i. This is one of the biggest medical ailments of the Western church – and we are not immune here at Tru!
 - ii. It's the air we breathe
- f. Like an infant drinking their bottle
- g. Paul says the church matures when everyone plays a part.**
 - i. We're all called to grow up into maturity where we're able not only to feed ourselves, but also feed OTHERS!
 - ii. This is the true measure of Christian maturity individually: can you not only feed yourself spiritually, but also reach out to feed others, and teach them to do the same?
 - iii. And the true measure of the maturity of a body of believers is how well are its members able to feed themselves spiritually, not starving themselves throughout the week and coming in on Sunday exhausted, malnourished, famished.
 - iv. AND how well are we able to minister to others. To reach out to their friends and neighbors. To raise up disciplinarians and leaders who can teach others to feed themselves and teach others the same
 - v. The measure of the health of a church is the level of ministry engagement by its members!!!**
- h. No part of the Body of Christ is insignificant!
 - i. As we'll talk more about next week, he's put us all together in the body with unique and complementing gifts for the works of ministry he's calling us to.
 - ii. [PASS OUT TOOLS]**
- i. A Construction Crew Needs Every Worker
 - i. If framers don't show up, there's no structure.
 - ii. If electricians don't show up, there's no power.
 - iii. If roofers don't show up, everything gets ruined!
- j. The church is the same way—if even one person doesn't serve, the whole body is affected.
 - i. Even if they don't quickly notice or understand
 - ii. It's even more urgent than we realize → not only do we not grow personally or as a church, but the work Jesus calls us to do doesn't get done!
 - iii. But it's not just the body that suffers, THE MISSION SUFFERS**
 - 1. The lost and broken around us are never given the chance to respond in a way they'll understand.

- k. **It grieves the heart of God when we don't obey him and do the work of ministry** he's called us to. When we don't live and work the way he's designed and called us to.
 - i. Woe to you if you refuse to get engaged and serve and minister.
 - 1. And woe to our church if we lacks what GOD has given you to contribute toward what he's calling us together toward!

13.[12] So what do we DO? Applications?

a. [13] REPENT. BELIEVE. OBEY.

14.REPENT

- a. Change your mind.
- b. See the call of Christ on his church and on your life to minister.
 - i. Recognize God's design for the church and your place in it.
- c. Shift Your Mindset.
 - i. Stop thinking: "The pastor does the ministry."
 - ii. Start thinking: "I am called to do the ministry."
 - 1. Recognize the call of God for the ministry of his Gospel Mission to be done primarily by people just, like, you.
 - 2. And in particular, YOU!
 - 3. Shift your thinking from the pastors do the ministry, to I do the ministry.
- d. Repent of the sins that have kept you from obeying his call.

15.BELIEVE

- a. That God's Word is true and best for both others AND US (as we talked about last wk)
- b. And that he's got a vested interest in helping us obey his call to minister by the power of his Spirit.

16.OBEY

- a. Take a step into Good Works of Ministry
 - i. Whether it's teaching, greeting, mentoring, or missions—God has a role for you!
 - ii. Most of you will need to get outside the 4 walls of this building.
 - 1. More about that next week.
 - iii. WHAT IS GOD CALLING YOU TO DO as an act of loving ministry?
 - 1. Pay attention to your emotions – what need makes your heart break
 - a. What injustice gets you MAD
 - 2. The council of others
 - a. LET LEADERS HELP YOU
 - 3. The gentle leading of God's spirit
 - a. Through his word
 - b. Through the words of others
 - c. Inner promptings
- b. Take a Step This Week.

- i. Talk to a leader, pray for guidance, and ask, “God, where do You want me?”
- ii. Then just Do it.
 - 1. Act experimentally.
 - 2. Reframe you view of failure: experimental mindset means we always learn and adjust even to failure. True failure is only failure if we give up.
 - 3. Try something
 - 4. And see what God does

17. The church is God’s Home Depot.

- a. [14] You can do it. We can help.
- b. Now, let’s get to work!
- c. For the Glory of God, and the Good of all people.

18. [15] Interview with Amanda.

- a. Tell us a little about yourself. Your family. How you came to get connected with our church.
- b. ***You’ve recently started a new ministry initiative (Women’s Flourishing Group).***
- c. How did that come about? What need did you see that was going unmet?
- d. Tell us about how you came to decide to do something about it yourself. What brought you to that point and how did it play out? What fears if any did you have to face?
- e. Did anyone help you make this ministry initiative happen?
- f. What do you long to see happen through this group and what, if anything, have you seen God do so far?
- g. What words of encouragement and advice would you have to others here considering stepping into personal ministry?

19. [16] ENDING PRAYER



REACHING OUT WITH MISSION



YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT

REACHING OUT WITH MISSION



EPHESIANS 4:11-16 ESV

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.**



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YOU CAN DO IT. WE CAN HELP.

EPHESIANS 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works, which God prepared beforehand**, that we should walk in them.



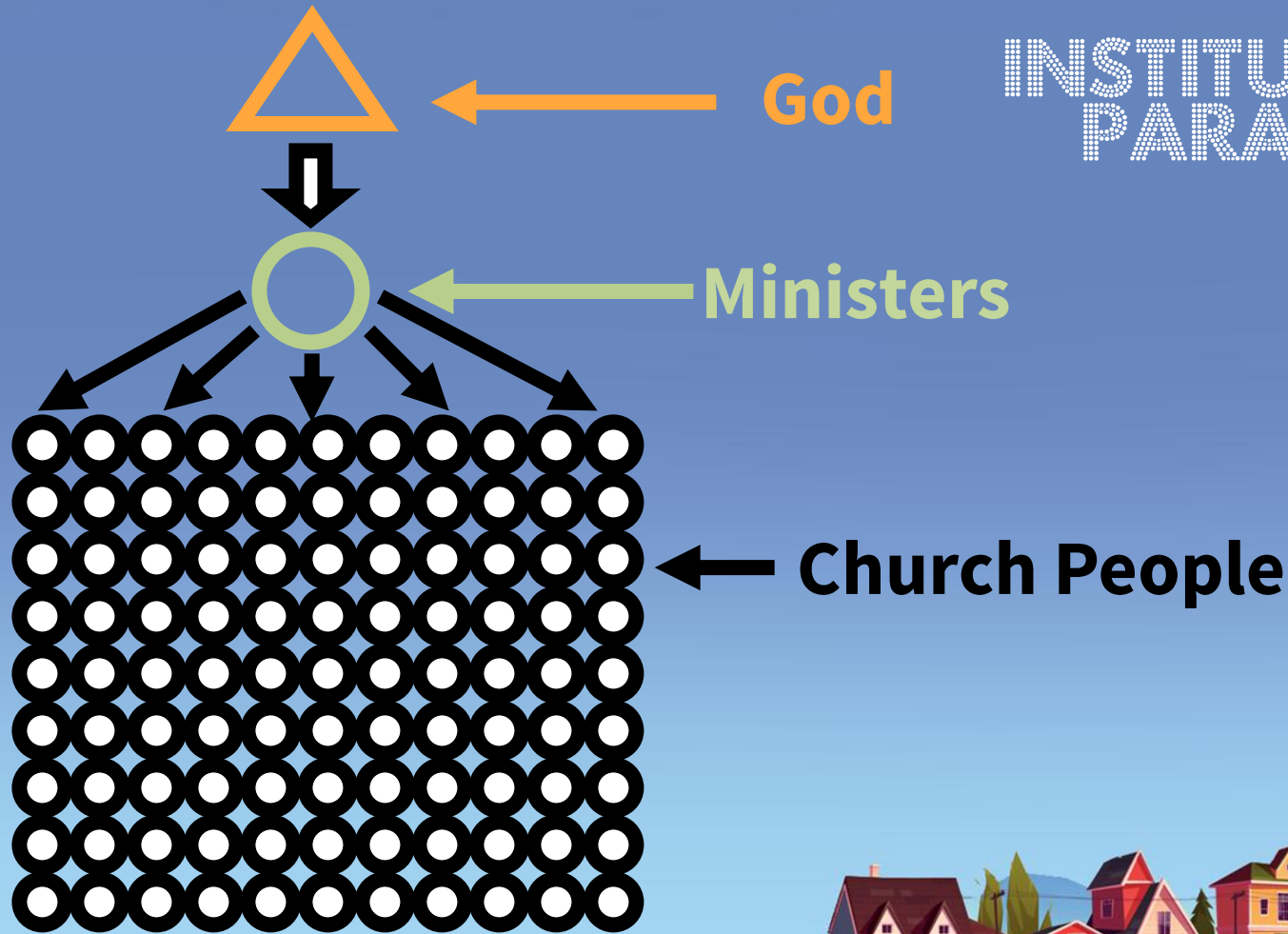
YOU CAN DO IT. WE CAN HELP.

MATTHEW 28:19-20

Therefore **go and make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey everything** I have commanded you.



INSTITUTIONAL PARADIGM

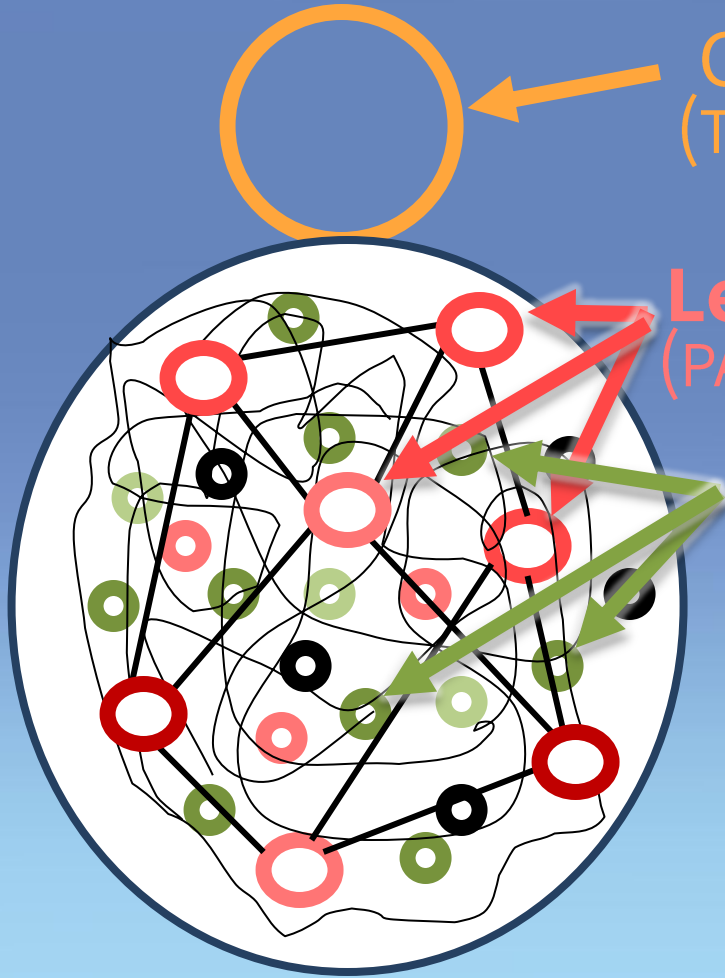


ORGANIC PARADIGM

Christ
(THE HEAD)

Leaders
(PASTORS, ELDERS, GROUP LEADERS)

Everybody
(MINISTERS)



EPHESIANS 4:13-16 ESV

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APPLICATIONS



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INTERVIEW

with AMANDA EILDERS



REACHING OUT WITH MISSION

