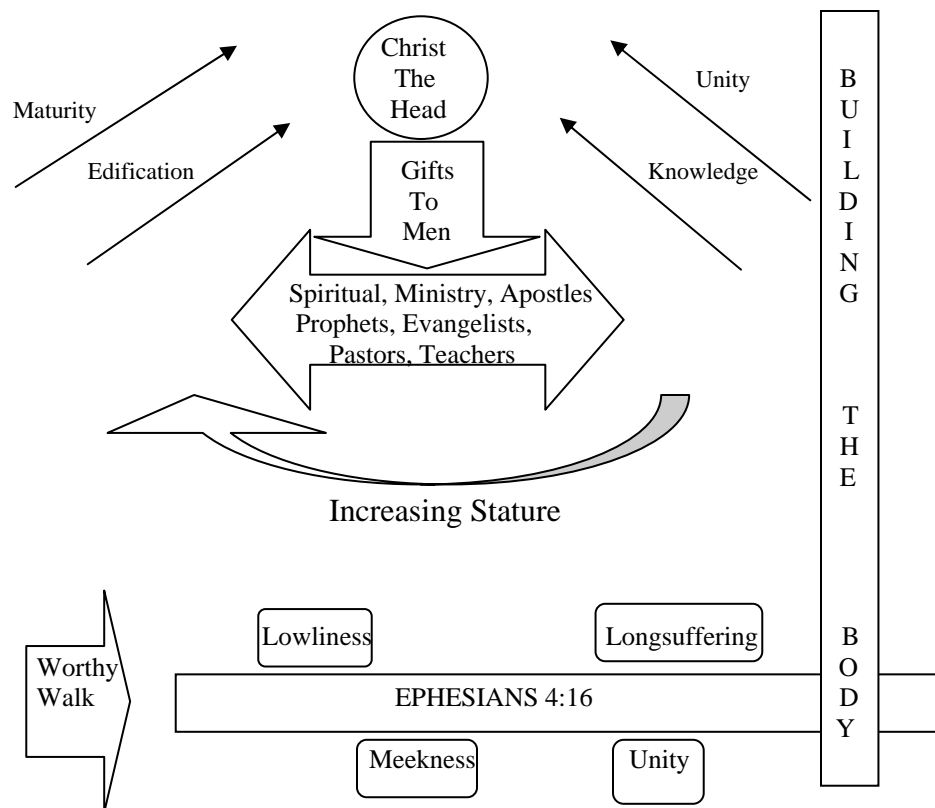


**“The Mission of the Church”**  
(Ephesians 4:1-16)

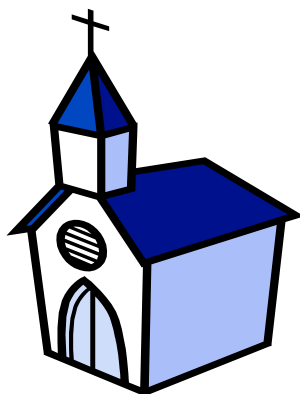
- I. The Church is to be characterized by unity. 4:1-6**
  - 1. There is a oneness of humility (behavior). 4:1-3
  - 2. There is a oneness of theology (belief). 4:4-6
  
- II. The Church is to be characterized by diversity. 4:7-11**
  - 1. We have a giving Savior. 4:7-10
  - 2. We have gifted saints. 4:11
  
- III. The Church is to be characterized by ministry. 4:12-14**
  - 1. Saints are to be equipped. 4:12
  - 2. Saints are to be edified. 4:12
  - 3. Saints are to be educated. 4:13
  - 4. Saints are to be enlarged. 4:13
  - 5. Saints are to be established. 4:14
  
- IV. The Church is to be characterized by maturity. 4:15-16**
  - 1. Maturity is evidenced by our speech. 4:15
  - 2. Maturity is evidenced by our service. 4:16
  - 3. Maturity is evidenced by our sensitivity. 4:16



## **“Why Do People Choose A Church? The Top Ten Reasons”**

1. The theological beliefs and doctrine of the church.
2. How much the people seem to care about each other.
3. The quality of the sermons that are preached.
4. How friendly the people in the church are to visitors.
5. How involved the church is in helping poor and disadvantaged people.
6. The quality of the programs and classes for children.
7. How much you like the pastor.
8. The denomination the church is affiliated with.
9. The quality of the adult Sunday School classes.
10. The convenience of the times of their weekend.

(Barna Research Group, Oct. 13, 1999).



## “Running in the Race of Life”

### How to be a Highly Effective Person

1. Be responsible for your life decisions. \*You don’t have to do anything!  
You choose to do what you do!!  
\*Being precedes doing!

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”  
Aristotle

2. Be goal oriented. \*Act with the end in mind.  
\*Live in the light of what you see as your destiny.  
\*Balance the 4 gravitational factors of:  
Security      Wisdom  
Advice      Power

“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of the faith.”  
(Hebrews 12:1-2)

3. Establish your priorities. \*Put first things first.  
\*Organize & execute in light of your priorities.  
\*Distinguish between the urgent and the important.  
\*Be effective with people, be efficient with things!

“Things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least.”  
Goethe

4. Think win/win. \*Seek to benefit everyone.  
\*Avoid “no win scenarios.”  
\*Strive for healthy cooperation not hurtful competition.

“Sometimes when I consider what tremendous consequences come from little things ... I am tempted to think ... there are no little things.”  
Bruce Barton

5. Seek first to understand, then to be understood.

Remember, there are 5 ways of listening:

- 1) Ignoring – not listening at all.
- 2) Pretending – give the appearance of listening.
- 3) Selective – hearing only parts of a conversation.
- 4) Attentive – focusing energy on the words spoken.
- 5) Empathic – hearing the person’s heart and mind as well as their words.

“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”  
St. James 1:19

6. Be creatively cooperative.  
(Synergize!)

- \*Value differences.
- \*Respect others as persons.
- \*Build on the strengths of yourself and others.
- \*Compensate for the weaknesses of yourself and others.

(Do what you do well and let others do what they do well!)

“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”  
Solomon, Proverbs 11:14

7. Preserve, enhance and develop your greatest asset – YOU.

- \*Renew your spiritual dimension (perspective).
- \*Renew your mental dimension (understanding/wisdom).
- \*Renew your physical dimension (health).
- \*Renew your social/emotional dimension (connectedness).

“But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”  
Jesus, Matthew 6:33

\*My calling and mission in life is to glorify God and my Savior, the Lord Jesus and enjoy Him forever.

\*My goal is to live with integrity and character and to make a positive difference in this world and in the lives of others.

\*I purpose to be a person of courage, convictions, commitment, and compassion.

**Six observations for building the necessary relationships of life:**

1. Seek to understand others.
2. Give attention to the little things.
3. Keep your word and fulfill your commitments.
4. Clarify your expectations of yourself & others.
5. Radiate personal integrity.
6. Apologize with sincerity when you “blow” it!

## **“15 Essentials for Effective Leadership in the Body of Christ”**

### **1. Integrity**

It is right that leaders be held to the highest standards of character, conduct and ethics. The term encompasses honesty, authenticity, transparency, trustworthiness, truthfulness, morality, and personal ethics (Psalm 1; Prov. 4:14-18; 17:20; 20:7; 1 Tim. 3:1; Tit. 1:6; 3 John 12).

### **2. Vision**

A leader must have the ability to “see into the future,” dream dreams and cast a vision for the people of God (Josh. 1; Prov. 29:18).

### **3. Wisdom**

Why would anyone want to follow someone who is unwise and therefore incompetent? A wise leader seeks the mind of God (Prov. 19:21). We must feel confident that the leader knows where he is going, that he has the ability to take us there and that it is a place we also want to go. Competence includes demonstrating leadership ability through word, action and deed (Prov. 12:26; 13:16, 20; 15:1-2; 23:12, 23; 24:5-6).

### **4. Communication**

We must develop the art of listening (Jam. 1:19). Input from key followers requires vital communication. A leader must clearly chart the course to follow to reach the vision. Talking, listening and sharing are crucial to sound leadership (Prov. 1:5, 7b; 11:14; 15:22-23; 21:23; 25:11-12).

### **5. Motivation**

You must inspire followers to put forth the effort required to achieve the vision. Motivation by the leader is vital, because of the paralysis that can be caused by uncertainty. The status quo can look mighty comforting to followers who lack confidence in their leader. Change requires risk, challenge, and personal growth. Motivation requires inspirational leadership (Prov. 30:29-31).

### **6. Decisiveness**

Leaders must make wise decisions. They must listen to counsel, observe for themselves, weigh the evidence, consider the consequences, and then act, always in a biblical manner. Every decision should be bathed in prayer, asking the Lord for wisdom (Jam. 1:5-7). Every decision will not be a perfect decision, but the leader must act decisively. To not decide in a timely manner, or to decide unpredictably or irrationally, is to display an uncertainty or inconsistency that will not be welcomed by those who are led. Followers will forgive the occasional wrong decision and remain loyal, but they will not long tolerate the leader’s inability or unwillingness to reach a decision (Jam. 1:8).

### **7. Risk-taking**

Christian leadership is about attempting great things for God. It is about change, and change is about taking risks, being innovative, trying new approaches, and even risking failure. Leaders recognize “failure” as only a temporary setback that gives direction for how to proceed by providing clear evidence of how not to proceed. We fail when we don’t try. We fail only when we give up the pursuit for success (Matt. 25:14-30; Phil. 1:21; 3:12-14).

**8. Compassion**

Leaders care about the mission of the organization, the vision that guides the way, and the well-being of the followers who must provide the hard work to translate the vision into reality. Leaders are passionate for ideals and compassionate for people (Prov. 3:27). True leaders are fair-minded and treat others as they would want to be treated (Prov. 14:21; 19:11; Matt. 22:39). We want to follow leaders whom we know to be not only competent but also genuinely concerned about us. The bond of good will and understanding that develops between a caring leader and his or her followers engenders the trust that is vital for effective leadership.

**9. Humility**

Good leaders are marked by an accurate self-evaluation, which engenders humility of heart and openness to correction (Prov. 16:18; 18:12; 21:4; 22:4; 27:17; 29:23).

**10. Self-control**

Capable leaders exhibit the ability to stay calm in the midst of stress and turbulence. They keep a “cool head” and a controlled tongue (Prov. 16:32; 23:29-35).

**11. Balance**

Effective leaders have all elements of their being well-integrated - - - spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically (Luke 2:52). Such leaders may seem to be “larger than life” and often engender great loyalty among followers.

**12. Humor**

Effective leaders take their work seriously but not themselves. A well-tuned sense of humor in a leader who is able and willing to laugh at his or her own mistakes and imperfections - - - but not those of their followers - - - makes the leader approachable and helps give others the confidence to take risks. The effective leader knows that a hearty laugh is medicine for the soul as well as the body and that in a crisis a good laugh may be the only link to sanity.

**13. Service**

Wise leaders think of others before they think of themselves. They never ask anyone to do anything they would not be willing to do themselves. (Mark 10:45)

**14. Sacrifice**

Effective and spiritual leaders give themselves away first to Jesus and then to others. They have an eternal perspective and recognize the value of giving up that which they cannot keep in order to gain that which they cannot lose. (Rom. 12:1)

**15. Modeling**

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit” - - Aristotle (1 Cor. 11:1). Others learn more from what we do than what we say.