

SERMON SUMMARY FOR COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS, 09/14/14

Ephesians 4:7-16 — “Equipping for Ministry,” Ryan Kelly

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In a sentence: In his wisdom, God has ordered his church in a multi-layered way where leaders equip and every part contributes to the church's growth.

SUNDAY'S OUTLINE

Varied Gifts (7-11)

Overlapping Goals (12-16)

1. To Equip (12a)
2. For Ministry (12b)
3. For Unity (13)
4. For Knowledge (13b-14)
5. For Growth (15-16)

A Multi-Layered Strategy for Sunday AM at DSC

1. Corporate Worship
2. a. Equip Class
b. Serving

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSING AND APPLYING THE SERMON TEXT WITH YOUR GROUP

1. Ephesians 4:7-16 talks about church growth. What kind of church growth is it talking about? How does the passage indicate this?
2. In Ephesians 4 the gifts are so much qualities but people. Who are they and what are they for? Other passages that speak of gifts speak about gifts given uniquely to believers (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, 1 Peter 4). Ryan said, “it’s kind of a big deal not to use your spiritual gifts?” Why? Spiritual gifts are often thought of as something for the Christian’s personal fulfillment. But what is the purpose of God’s gifts to the church?
3. Ryan said that this passage teaches us about how needy the body of Christ is? What did he mean? How should this effect what we expect from ourselves at church? How should this effect what we expect from the church at church? Ryan asked, “What if every member were just like me? Would DSC be better or worse?” Was this a challenging statement for you? In what ways?
4. This two-part series has presented our congregation with three priorities for Sunday morning. What are they? Ryan said that we might not all apply these sermons in the same way, but that we should all apply these sermons. How will these three priorities change the way you approach Sunday morning at DSC?

QUOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND OTHER MATERIAL FROM THE SERMON

John Piper: “The body needs a lot of work done on it. . . . Let that sink in a minute. It will help keep us from being discouraged when we realize how imperfect the church is. It starts with people becoming believers and receiving grace according to the measure of Christ's gift (v. 7). Then all these saints need to avail themselves of leaders who equip them for ministry. But whom is that ministry for? It's for the all those same saints who are ministering—the body of Christ. . . . So in spite of the fact that all the saints are gifted with grace directly from Christ himself, we all need the ministry of the saints to build us up; and, not only that, we need the leader-saints, too, to fix us and supply us in ways that help us be ministering saints to other saints.”