

The Church in Acts

Week 3: What Is The Church

Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp - Reston Bible Church - Sunday, January 19, 2025



The Church in Acts: Foundation for Mission and Community

“But you will receive **power** when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 ESV

The background consists of horizontal wooden planks of varying shades, from dark brown to deep blue. A warm, orange-red glow is visible at the top, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

WHAT is the church?



Ekklesia – Assembly – called out, an
assembly duly summoned.



Ecclesiastical – pertaining to the church

Ecclesiology – the study of the doctrine of the church

Secular Assembly

But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the **regular assembly**.

Acts 19:39 ESV

Church Universal

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build **my church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:18 ESV

And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the **church**, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 1:22-23 ESV

Church Local

Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus... Greet also the **church in their house.**

Romans 16:3, 5 ESV

That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in **every church**.

1 Corinthians 4:17 ESV

The local church is a community of regenerated believers who confess JC as Lord. In obedience to the Scripture, they organize under qualified leadership, gather regularly for preaching & worship, observe the biblical sacraments of baptism and Communion, are unified by the Spirit, are **disciplined for holiness** & scatter to fulfill the great commandment and the great commission as missionaries to the world for God's glory and their joy."

Mark Driscoll

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For just as the **body** is one and has many members, and all the members of the **body**, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one **body**—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the **body**,” that would not make it any less a part of the **body**...
Now you are the **body** of Christ and individually members of it.

1 Corinthians 12:12-15, 27 ESV

...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.

Ephesians 4:15-16 ESV

A Building

As you come to him, a **living stone** rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like **living stones** are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:4-5 ESV

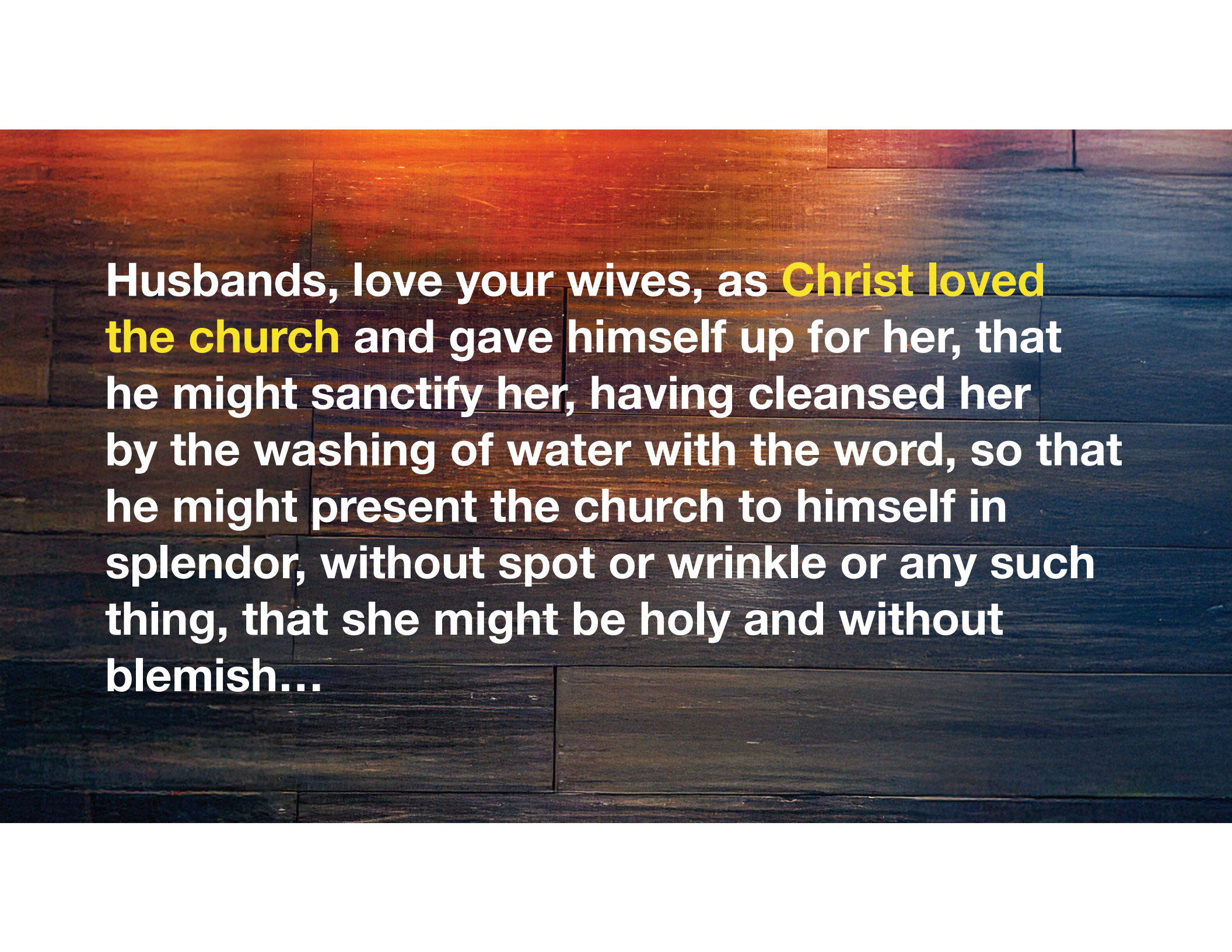
...built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the **cornerstone**, in whom the **whole structure**, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a **dwelling place for God** by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:20-22 ESV

The Bride

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory,
for the **marriage of the Lamb** has come,
and **his Bride** has made herself ready.

Revelation 19:7 ESV



Husbands, love your wives, as **Christ loved the church** and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish...



This mystery is profound, and I am saying
that it refers to **Christ and the church.**

Ephesians 5:25-27, 32 ESV

For I feel a divine jealousy for you,
since I betrothed you to one husband, to
present you as **a pure virgin to Christ.**

2 Corinthians 11:2 ESV

The Priesthood

But you are a chosen race, a royal **priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

2 Peter 2:9 ESV

The background consists of horizontal wooden planks of varying lengths and widths, creating a rustic, textured appearance. The colors range from deep, dark blues and blacks to warm, glowing oranges and reds, particularly in the upper portion of the image. The lighting is soft and directional, coming from the top, which creates a gradient of light across the wood. The overall mood is contemplative and aged.

Why is the Church?

Evangelism

And he said to them, “Go into all the world and **proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.**”

Mark 16:15 ESV

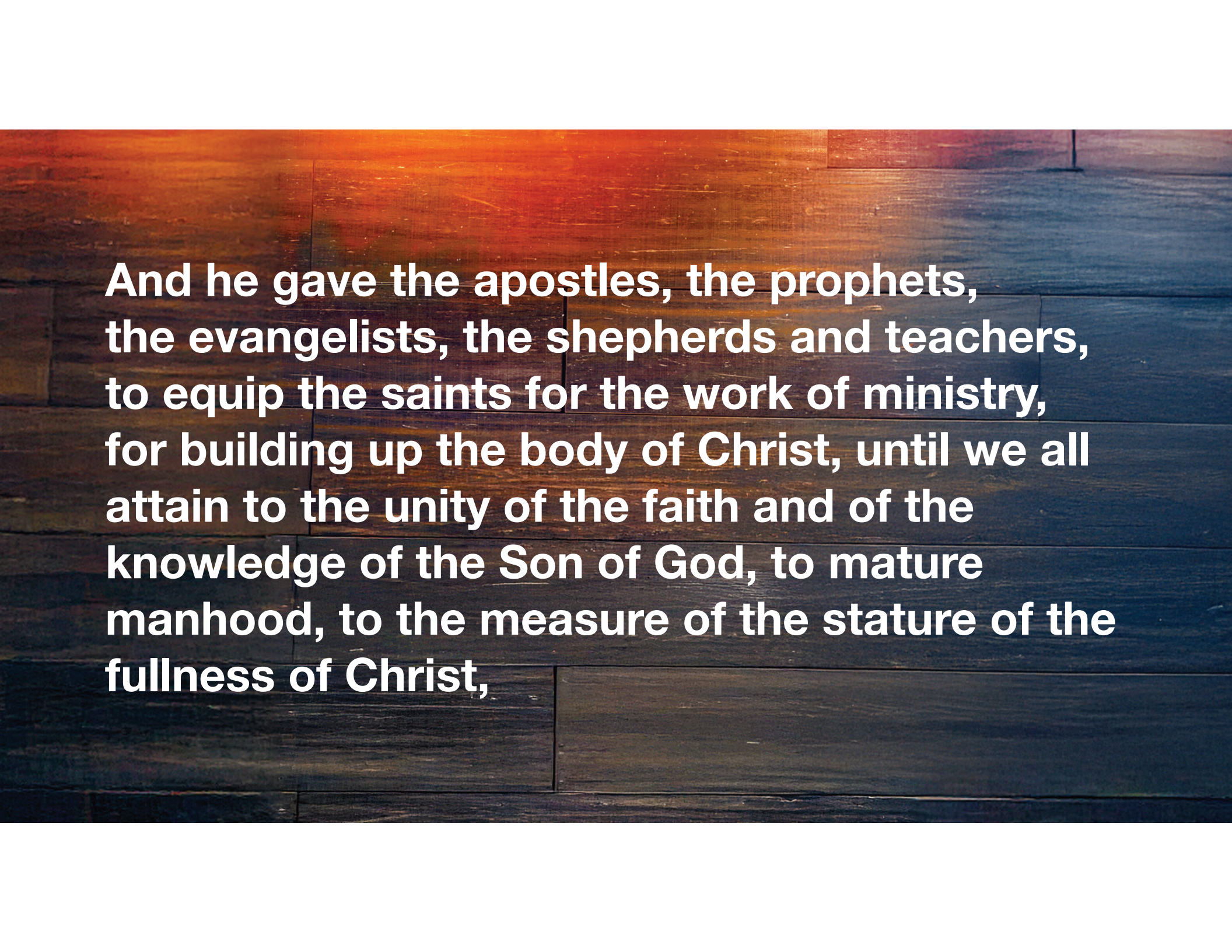
Discipleship - Maturity

Go therefore and make **disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe** all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

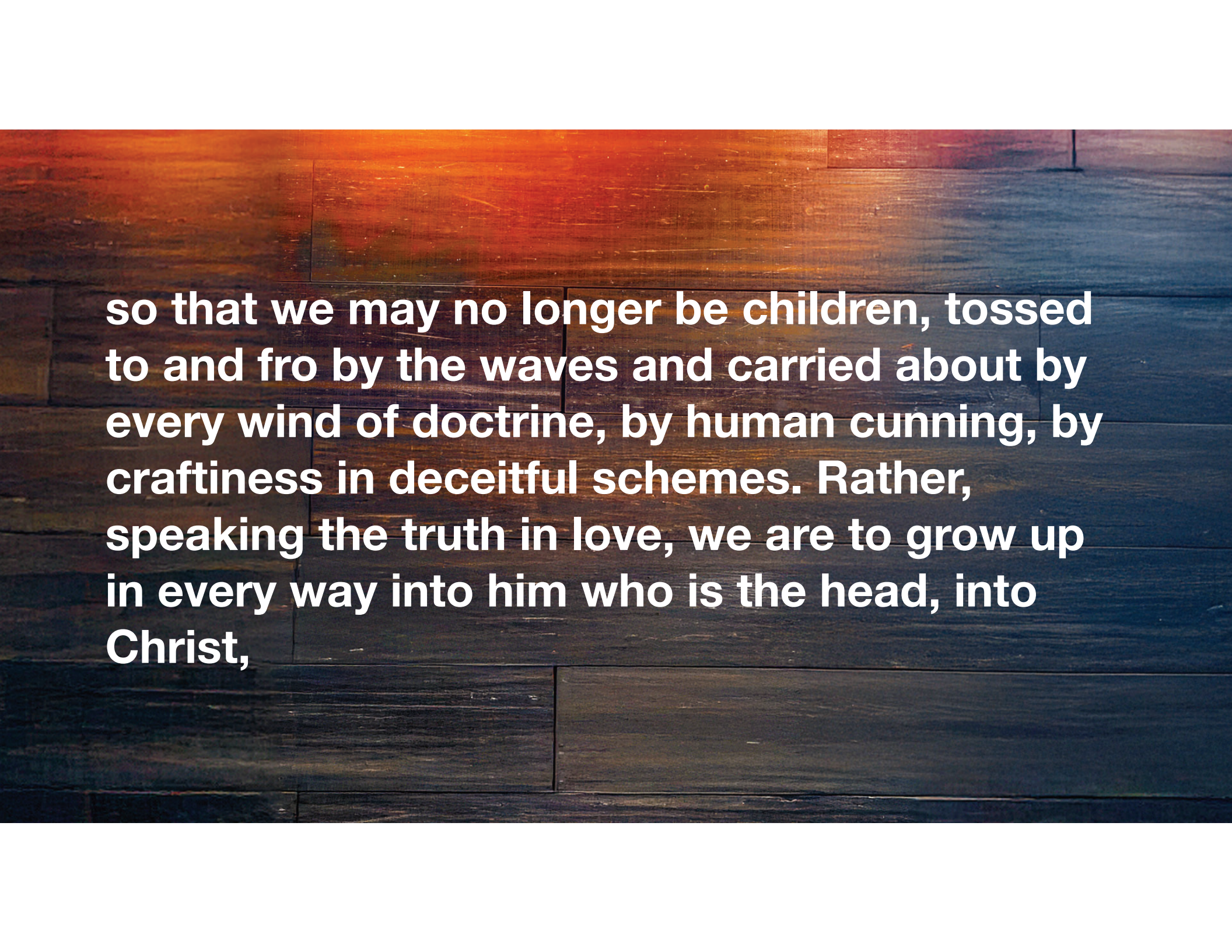
Matthew 28:19-20 ESV



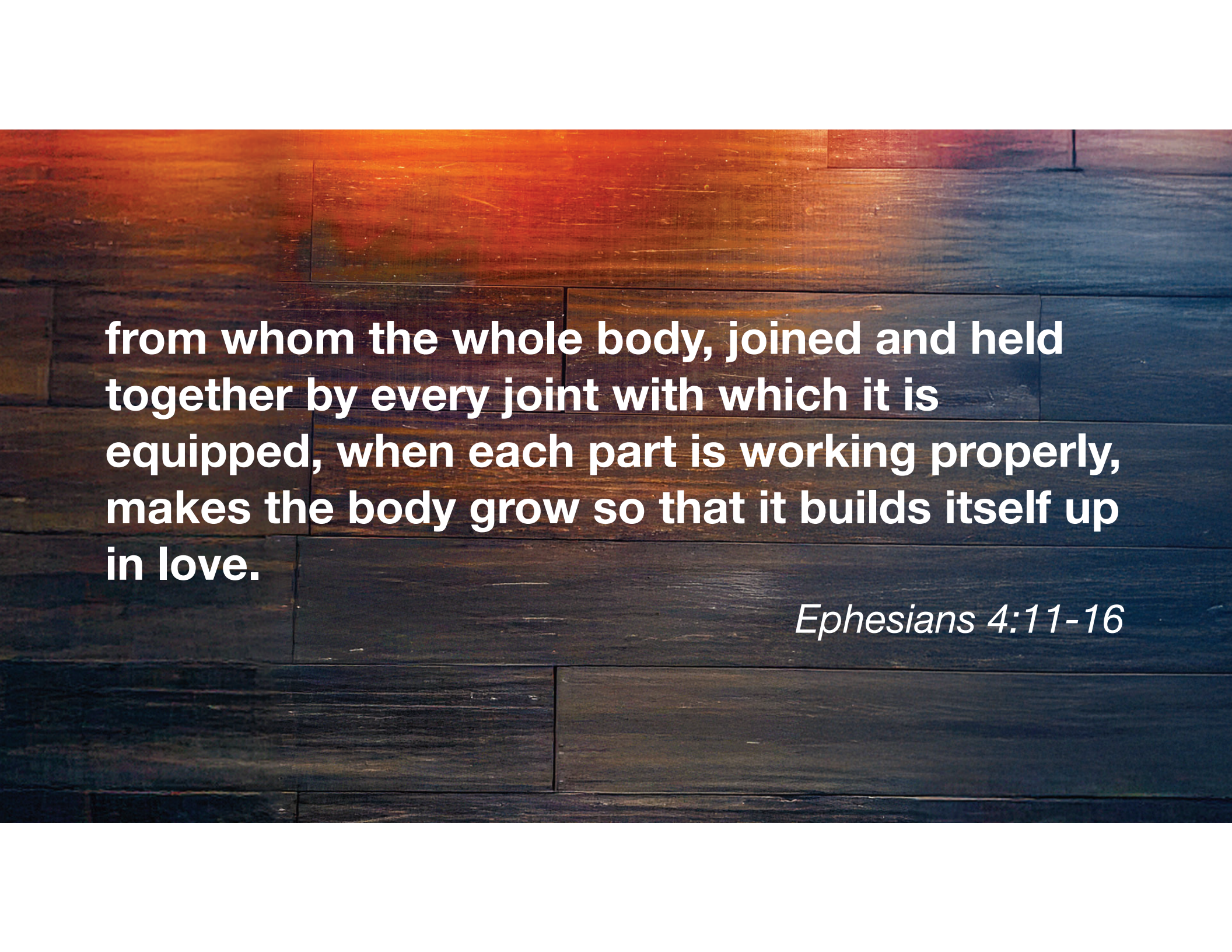
Disciple – To be a follower. To be instructed in the ways of.



**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.

Ephesians 4:11-16

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them....

Romans 12:4-6 ESV

What is the Church?

- **Body**
- **Building**
- **Bride**
- **Priesthood**

Why is the Church?

- Evangelism
- Discipleship

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