

- 1 **Ephesians 4.11-16**
The Starting Point of our Mission:
Build People Up in Christ
- 2 **No church can be duly faithful or truly fruitful *in biblical terms* unless it performs God's work in God's way.**
- 3 **God's work for the church is make disciples.**

Period!

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. . . teaching them to observe all that I have command you. . .” Matt. 28.19-20




- 4 **That's our mission. Pure and simple.**
- 5 **Put another way, our mission is:**
 - To build people up in Christ
 - To send them out for Christ
 - To bring people to Christ
 - For the glory of God

Translation: to reproduce disciples or followers of Jesus Christ

- 6 **A maturing disciple (follower) is**

- Revelationally rooted
- Morally circumspect
- Financially responsible
- Socially caring
- Evangelistically engaged
- Domestically faithful
- Verbally constructive

- 7 **We should note**
 - Statistical mass is not necessarily evidence of a work of God.
 - Lack of the same is not necessarily proof of the opposite.
 - The Spirit of God is at work wherever, large or small venues, true disciples are being reproduced.
 - He is not at work wherever that is not happening.
- 8 **The big question is**
 - How do we as a church most effectively discharge our God-given mission (disciple-making)?

- 9  **Follow God's design for the church. Eph. 4.11-12**
 - It is to equip, not entertain the church.
 - It is to prepare us for Christ's service, not to pander to 'consumer' whims.
 - It is to fill hearts, not pews.
 - It is to make the saints holy, not happy.
 - It is to be a staging area for the rescue of the lost, not the soul-saving station.
- 10  **Teach God's Word to the church**
 - It's exclusively prescribed for its growth.
 - 2 Tim. 4.1-4
 - John 17.17
 - It's strangely powerful in its effects.
 - Hebrews 4.12
 - 2 Tim. 3.16-17
 - It's guaranteed effective in its purpose.
 - Isaiah 55.10-11
- 11  **Conclusion**

We always get the best results when we just simply do God's work in God's way.