



**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Friday, February 5, 2021**

**Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-13**

**TITLE: Caring and Sharing**

Caring and sharing leads to growing. My youngest son loves Legos. He is always grabbing a handful, and creating something new brick by brick. I've watched him build: He has a vision. He begins to construct it. He grows frustrated. He puts it down. He takes it apart, but eventually builds it to completion. I see how much work he puts into each creation, but the sense of accomplishment and pride he feels is worth it all.

God is building His church brick by brick, or you could say, person by person. But He doesn't do this alone. He invites us into the construction process. What do I mean?

Let's turn to Ephesians 4:11-13 for that answer:

"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. <sup>12</sup> Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. <sup>13</sup> This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ."

Paul says that Christ gave gifts to the church. Then he lists out some offices of the church. Now, apostles and prophets were confined to the first-century church. They laid the foundation for us. But today, we still have evangelists and the pastor/teacher.

Now, It's true we are not all evangelists, and we are not all pastors/teachers. But one thing is for sure, we are all called to do the work of the evangelist, and disciple or teach others to follow Christ. Let me unpack this for a moment.

First, let's start with the work of evangelism. You've heard me say this, but we've overcomplicated evangelism. We've made it intimidating and difficult. But Paul said in 1 Corinthians 3, that we are to scatter seed and water wherever we go, but it's God who does the saving.

If I could summarize this in today's language, it would be this: live your life with Gospel intentionality. God will do the rest. Do whatever it is you normally do, but do it with the desire and intention to share the testimonies of God in your life and the Good News. That's doing the work of an evangelist.

But second, Paul mentions the office of pastor/teacher. Now, I think there are certain boundaries here still in effect, but even if you're not, or cannot be a pastor/teacher, we all can be teachers, or disciple-making disciples, to those around you. You don't need a degree or 30 years of

experience to do this. You need to be willing to engage in God's Word and follow Him daily. That's all it takes. God is inviting us to build the church brick by brick through daily discipleship, which is doing the work of an evangelist.

So here's my challenge for you today: It is to care and share.

First is care - Identify one person who is far from God and reach out to them in 2 steps. First, text them and let them know you value them and are praying for them. Ask them if there is a special prayer request. This will open new doors.

The second is share. I want you to invite them to use the goTandem app. Daily discipleship is done in tandem with you and God's Word, so invite them to try the app for seven days.

In my experience, everyone wants prayer, and everyone will try a spiritual path for a while. So together, let's share and care.