

Gather together  
to be poured out.



post-quarantine

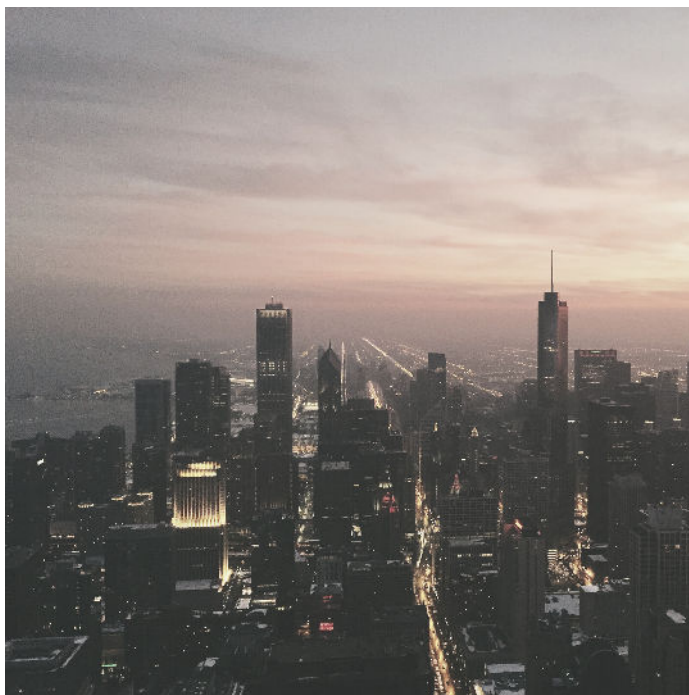
# THE CHURCH.

SERMON  
SERIES

APRIL 10 -  
MAY 23



# WEEK SEVEN



## WE ARE THE CHURCH

READ EPHESIANS 4:11-16

In Ephesians 4 Paul discusses what it means to live out Christ's invitation to be HIS body—the Church. It's more than a building or location, it's the collection of believers in unity working toward the fullness of love in Christ.

In verse 12 Paul uses the word, *katartismos* (equip). A more in-depth look at this word gives context to define it as:

*That of putting a thing into the condition in which it ought to be.*

God has placed leaders with differing skills and abilities to help us all be put into the condition in which God created us to be. As Jesus' body we are to work in unity toward his love by inviting our neighbors into this life-giving community. How often do you think of yourself as a minister to your neighbors?

The second key word that Paul uses in this passage is the word *diakonia* (ministry). We are to equip the saints for the work of *ministry* - *diakonia*.

Commentary author William Barclay describes this word saying: "*The main idea which lies behind this word is that of practical service. The office-bearers are not to be people who simply talk on matters of theology and of Church law; those who are appointed are in office to see that practical service of God's poor and lonely people goes on.*"

## THE MAIN IDEA IS PRACTICAL SERVICE

As you go this week, remember you are a saint. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. (Ephesians 4:2). "A saint has been defined as "someone in whom Christ lives again." Be a reflection of Christ, allowing the love he has for you to flow through you in each interaction you have this week!

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do you teach and embody to your kids/family/close friends that the church is more than a building-it's us?
- How often do you think of yourself as a minister to your neighbors? What would it look like for you to lean further into your role as a minister?
- Share a story of a time when you have felt equipped (or not equipped) to be a minister.
- With your group, ask how you can encourage and equip each other in practical service.

## PRAAYER

- Take this time to pray for your group members. What are some specific things you need prayer for?
- How can you remind your church family of the unconditional love of God?



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**HIS AIM IS TO SEE TO IT  
THAT THE BODY OF  
CHRIST IS BUILT UP**

WILLIAM BARCLAY

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**ST. ANDREW'S**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

