

State of the Church 2023 God's Design for His Church!



Jesus said: "On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18b ESV

God, who created all things. ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. Ephesians 3:9b-12 NIV

1. Christ Gave Elders Leadership Gifts.

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers... Ephesians 4:11 NIV

2. Elders are to Equip God's People.

¹² to equip his people for works of service, Ephesians 4:12a NIV

3. God's Equipped People Will... Do Works of Ministry/Service.

¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up... Ephesians 4:12 NIV

4. God's Equipped People Will... Be Built Up.

¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up Ephesians 4:12 NIV

5. God's Equipped People Will...

Reach Unity of the Faith and Knowledge of the Son of God.

¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God... Ephesians 4:13a NIV

6. God's Equipped People Will... Become Spiritually Mature, Attaining Whole Measure of the Fullness of Christ.

and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Ephesians 4:13b-14 NIV

¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:16-19 NIV see Colossians 1:17-20 and Colossians 2:6-10

7. Spiritually Mature People Will... Speak the Truth in Love.

¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. Ephesians 4:15 NIV

8. Spiritually Mature People Will... Do Their Part.

¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:16 NIV
