

Group Reflection Questions

1. What is your image of a pastor?
2. Do you think the church, as a whole, has come to accept people remaining “infants.”
3. What kind of picture does Paul give us of leadership here? Is it a single person, or is it a team?
4. What is your picture of what it means to be mature in Christ?
5. In what ways do you need to be equipped in your life?

April 6, 2008

Equipping

Ephesians 4:1-16

Why do we have leaders in the Church? Some traditions, like the Quakers, pride themselves on having very little leadership in their congregation. In a Quaker meeting anyone can get up and speak “a word from the Lord.” Why don’t we do it that way?

Well, there’s a good answer and a bad answer. First the bad answer: Church leaders do the work of the church—they are spiritual for everyone else. In the worst case the pastor gets paid to live a spiritual life so no one else in the congregation has to live a godly life. Obviously this understanding is wrong on many different levels. Unfortunately, this view reflects the understanding of some in the church.

Paul gives us a different purpose for church leadership—leaders should equip God’s people for God’s work. Everyone has responsibility for their walk with God and leadership has the task of helping people to grow into those tasks God has given them. This does not mean leadership is godly in place of the congregation being godly. I like the model of the pastor as consultant. A consultant doesn’t do everything, but s/he helps others do their given tasks. So as God calls you to live His way in your life, where do you need to be equipped?

