1. **The Elders equip the members for ministry.**

   **Ephesians 4:11-14 (ESV)** 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

   a. **Apostles** –
      1. chosen directly
      2. witnessed the resurrection
      3. laid the foundation for the church
      4. performed signs and wonders

   b. **Prophets** – Old Testament preachers that declared God’s revelation

      **Ephesians 2:19-20 (ESV)** 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

   c. **Evangelist** – Focus on getting the gospel to the world

   d. **Pastor-Teacher** – Shepherd teacher – primary job is to feed the sheep

2. **The Church members carry out the ministry.**

   **Ephesians 4:11-12 (ESV)** 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

   - For the work of the ministry
     - Everyone should be doing ministry.
     - It is not the ministers’ (pastor/elders) job to do all the ministry.

   - For building up the body of Christ
     - We serve for the good of the body.
3. Result of Unity in the Body - The Church Matures

4 Evidences of Maturity:

- Christ-likeness

  Ephesians 4:13 (ESV) until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

- Doctrinal Stability

  Ephesians 4:14 (ESV) so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

- Truth Joined with Love

  Ephesians 4:15 (ESV) Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

- Cooperation

  Ephesians 4:16 (ESV) from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.