

# Gamma 11

## Study 12

Ephesians 4:11-16

### Section A (Exegetical Questions)

- 1. What is the difference between a gift and an office? And look at the list of gifts which are offices and which are gifts? What happens when you mix up the two and think it is the same?**
- 2. What is the difference between this list of gifts and the one in 1 Cor 12? Is this list exhaustive. What are these gifts centered upon? What is the purpose of these particular group of gifts? How does this guide us when we are planning to grow a church? There are two classes of gifts given to the church broadly, Word gifts and Deed gifts can you look at the both this passage and the Corinthians passage and suggest which ones belong to each category. Which church offices are Word offices and which are deed offices ?**
- 3. The goal of the word ministry is described positively in verse 13 and 15 and negatively in verse 14. Based on this description what is Paul talking about our personal maturity or our collective maturity? What implications does this have on how we interact in church?**
- 4. In verse 15 we are told of the end result of maturity which is speaking the truth in love, how does this result in the growth and maturation of the body?**
- 5. How does the focus on growing in to Christ result in love and truth?**

### Section B

#### Reflection Questions

- 1. How do you speak the truth in love? We often have overemphasised one over the other depending on our temperament. We are overly harsh and focus on the truth or we are too soft and focus on love and the truth is watered down. Can you share situations where you have made mistakes in either direction? Are there certain fears or forces within us that drive us in either direction, how can we identify them and learn how to speak the truth in love**
- 2. A life group leader has started teaching his members that everyone who is baptised in the Holy Spirit must speak in tongues otherwise they are not filled with the Spirit and live a weakened ineffective spiritual life. This is at odds with the doctrinal stand of the church but his life group is the largest in the church. How can the leaders deal with this?**
- 3. A new member has come into a Gamma group and has insisted that spiritual gifts have all ceased at least the more spectacular ones like speaking in tongues and prophesy. There are others who disagree. How do you handle a situation like this ?**

## **Section C**

### **Case history**

**Kelvin Tan serves in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist church where he leads the Kingdom pathfinders which is a uniformed body where teenagers are involved in activities where they are discipled and learn to work with each other in a particular set of activities. This Kelvin is the CEO of Burger King in Malaysia and is a highly driven person and overtime he has grown the Kingdom Pathfinders to a huge movement of over 400 teenagers. The youth fellowship pastor approached Kelvin for help with the youth as most of them were either too busy with their own studies or entirely engrossed with serving in the Kingdom Pathfinders. Kelvin told him that it was his poor leadership that caused the decline in the youth. In fact he approached the elders of the church to ask them to disband the youth and get them all to join the Kingdom pathfinders. He would then take their funding and pump it in the pathfinders as it would give more spiritual return. Some of the elders countered that they were worried about the pathfinders as they seemed to be fully engrossed with their physical activities but spent little time in bible study and the movement was starting to become secular in its character as Kelvin had introduced a lot of marketing ideas from the corporate field. There was no emphasis on discipleship at all. Kelvin reacted badly to this and threatened to take the movement to other churches if the elders were not happy. They suggested various programs to put back more Word content into the pathfinders but Kelvin would have none of that. They suggested the pathfinders**

**be involved in caring for some aspects of the ministry to the poor run by other church members but Kelvin objected.**

- 1. What aspects of today's passage do you think that Kelvin has missed?**
- 2. Is this an example of a church growing in love? Why or why not?**
- 3. What should the elders do in this situation if they are convicted that the situation is untenable ?**
- 4. Is this a common kind of problem in churches where many of the ministries have a " silo " mentality? Why is this kind of mentality so common ? How can we be better prepared to deal with such problems of prevent them from occurring?**