

Study Guide

Building Blocks of the Church

Chapter 7 – Do the Eph 4:11 Ministries Continue?

Questions for Discussion

1. What is Cessationism? What are their arguments and which Scriptures do they use to support the view?
2. What is Restorationism and what Scriptures do they use to support their view?
3. Some of people dispute that some of the ministries in Ephesians 4:11 continue (Cessationists) and while accepting that some of the ministries continue. Which ministries are accepted by most people to continue?
4. Are there any Scriptures that clearly teach that any of the ministries will cease before Jesus returns?
5. Does Ephesians 4:7-16 provide guidance as to when the ministries were given and when they will cease?
6. Is there anything in Ephesians 4:7-16 that indicate that some of the ministries will cease while others will continue or is it logical to expect that they either all cease or they all continue?

7. 1Corinthians 13:8-10 is often quoted as proof that tongues and prophecy will cease. Read these verses and discuss the following:
 - a. Does it appear from the passage that “tongues”, “prophecy” and “knowledge” will cease at the same time?
 - b. If so, does knowledge continue or has it ceased?
 - c. The “perfect” that is to come and which will herald the end of these gifts is said to be “the formation of the canon of Scripture”. Can that be deduced from this passage or any other Scripture?
 - d. What is most likely the meaning of the “perfect” that is to come?
 - e. Why will these gifts cease at that point?
8. What is the difference between spiritual gifts (1Corinthians 12:7-11) and ministries (Ephesians 4:11)? (See footnote 355 on page 116).

Additional resources