What Every Joint Supplies
Eph. 4:16

Introduction:
A. Jesus established the church and set it up as it pleased him in the first century.
   1. He gave it the varied personnel needed to fulfill its mission in the world.
      a. Eph. 4:8, 11-16
      b. Rom. 12:4-8
      c. 1 Cor. 12:18, 17-30
   2. Some personnel were miraculously endowed for revelation and confirmation.
   3. Others did not need miraculous endowment.
   4. All Christians need to be aware of what the “joints” are along with their functions.
   5. Since God set “joints” in as it pleased Him, we dare not add or remove any from the body.
B. Let us consider what each joint listed in our text supplies to the body – with deacons mentioned elsewhere.

Discussion:
I. Apostles and Prophets
   A. They had miraculous power to confirm their claim to revelation (Mark 16:20)
   1. The apostles could impart miraculous power to others (Acts 8:18; Rom. 1:11)
   2. The gift of prophecy was one of several such imparted gifts (1 Cor 13:2)
   B. They supplied the revelation by which the whole body is guided (Eph. 3:3-5)
      1. Their work began with the spoken word and continues through the written word.
      2. Their work was needed only until revelation was complete (1 Cor. 13:8-10; Jude 3)

II. Evangelists
   A. They are simply “preacher(s) of the gospel” (Strong)
      1. “Euaggelion” = the gospel (good news)
      2. “Euaggelizo” = to preach the gospel (proclaim good news)
      3. “Euaggelistes = a preacher of the gospel (proclaimer of good news)
   B. Their work is preaching the gospel to the world and the church.
      1. The world needs their work (Mark 16:15)
      2. The church needs their work (2 Tim. 4:1-5; our text)

III. Pastors
   A. They are the same as Elders and Bishops.
      1. Acts 20:17, 28
      2. 1 Pet. 5:1-4
      3. Tit. 1:5, 7 with 1 Tim. 3:1,2
   B. They supply care, experienced leadership and oversight.
      1. Pastors/shepherds emphasizes their care and protection of the flock (cf. Heb. 13:17)
      2. Elders/presbyters emphasizes their experience and maturity of leadership.
      3. Bishops/overseers emphasize their authority or rule in the church.

IV. Teachers
   A. While teaching is common to all the above, they are a separate class of teachers.
      1. They are mentioned as distinct from the others (cf. Acts 13:1; 1 Cor. 12:28; Heb. 5:12)
      2. They are cautioned about the seriousness of their work (Jas. 3:1ff)
   B. They supply teaching in various situations where especially qualified teachers are need.

V. Deacons
   A. These are not listed in Ephesians 4, but are mentioned elsewhere with bishops (Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3)
   B. These are special servants whose work is determined by the meaning their title:
      1. They are attendants, errand runners, table waiters (Strong)
      2. They are “one(s) who execute the commands of another” (Thayer)
      3. Their mention in connection with bishops indicates special servants to the elders.

Conclusion:
A. These along with all the saints are the joints that make up and edify the body of Christ.
   1. No joint edifies unless it supplies its part of the work.
   2. No joint is qualified nor expected to supply every part of the work.
B. All are needed for the body to function as God intended and to edify itself in love – no appendixes.