

**Lionel Traylor**

Understanding the Five-Fold Ministry: God's System for the Equipping, Edification, Empowerment, and Expansion of The Body of Christ.

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## **4. Purpose & History of the Five-Fold Ministry**

This opening chapter introduces the Five-Fold Ministry (apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher) as God's government for the Church. It argues the Church cannot mature without these offices and that every believer must submit to this order to grow.

### **Key takeaways**

- Paul names the Five-Fold Ministry in Ephesians 4 to perfect, edify, stabilize, and grow the saints toward unity and maturity in Christ.
- God's Church has a government; belonging means submitting to it, and each person has a gift meant to be used for the whole body.
- A hand illustrates the offices: Apostle=thumb (foundation, touches all), Prophet=index (points the way), Evangelist=middle (sent out), Pastor=ring (married to the Church), Teacher=pinkie (small but great access).
- Gifting is not the same as maturity — 'oil out of order is a Kingdom mess.' We cannot perfect ourselves outside God's system.

- Office differs from mantle: not everyone qualifies for an office, but all flow under a mantle. 'The anointing you respect is the anointing you attract.'
- Working in ministry doesn't mean you're in your true call; many skip training and stay ineffective.

## Passages worth keeping

*"It does not matter how 'oily' you are; oil out of order is a Kingdom mess!"*

Sums up the chapter's core: gifting must operate within God's order.

## How it connects

The chapter frames spiritual gifts as service to the body, not self-display — 'if your gift edifies you, but God doesn't get the glory, then your gift is perverted.'

## Scripture referenced

- **Ephesians 4:11-13** -- The foundational list of the five offices and their purpose
- **Ephesians 4:1-3** -- Call to walk worthy in humility, patience, and unity