

The Work of the Ministry

Ephesians 4:11-13

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Ephesians

The Epistle on Ecclesiology

*{The Letter on the doctrine of the
Church}*

The Work of the Ministry

*“The church’s only legitimate - **GOAL** is “the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” - John MacArthur*

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- ▶ v. 12, three prepositional phrases beginning with “*FOR*.” Those phrases identify the **PURPOSE** of God’s provision, . . .
- ▶ The Greek word *pros* suggests “an intended end or **PURPOSE**.” It is the ultimate **END** which is in view.
- ▶ The word *eis* gives the idea of “unto.”

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God gavegifted men,
the ultimate **GOAL** - perfect
the saints
the saints - perform the
ministry

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I. GOD'S PROVISION FOR THE CHURCH v. 11

A. Apostles

The term “apostle” refers to someone who is **SENT** on a mission.

B. Prophets

Sometimes they **SPOKE** revelation from God, ...

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I. GOD'S PROVISION FOR THE CHURCH v.11

C. Evangelists

An evangelist is a person who proclaims the **GOOD NEWS** [gospel].

D. Pastor-Teacher

These are best understood as **ONE OFFICE** in the local church..., - the Granville Sharp Rule

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Based on the Greek word
[Poimen], a pastor is a
SHEPHERD.

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II. GOD'S PLAN FOR THE CHURCH v. 12

A. Perfecting the Saints

Greek - *perfecting* [katartismos]

- that which is **FIT** having been **RESTORED** to its original condition, or made **COMPLETE**.
- The aim of gifted men - “**SHAPE** up the saints.”

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Four basic tools for perfecting/
equipping

1. The Word of God - 2 Timothy 3:16,17
2. Prayer - Acts 6:4; Colossians 4:12
3. Testing - James 1:2-4
4. Suffering - 1 Peter 5:10

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B. The work of the Ministry

This phrase is frequently translated
- “*works of **SERVICE.***”

The majority of the work in the church, is to be accomplished not by the paid **STAFF** but by the men and women in the **PEWS.**

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Ministry Defined

“Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God.” - Warren Wiersbe

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SIX CONCEPTS OF MINISTRY

Zuck and Walvoord

1. All Christians are called to the ministry. It is not the privilege of a holy **FEW**.
2. Spiritual gifts determine ministry within the congregation.
3. All ministry, regardless of diversity, is based on **SERVANTHOOD**.

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SIX CONCEPTS OF MINISTRY

4. Ministry's source - the pattern of Jesus Christ.
Matthew 20:28
5. Ministry rests on Christ's fulfilled Work of the Death, Burial, and Resurrection.
6. Some may be "ordained" to full-time exercise of their gifts, and be worthy of church support.

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THREE REQUIREMENTS FOR MINISTRY

1. Identification with the Cross of Christ - **Luke 9:23**
2. A close walk with God - **John 6:38; Matthew 26:39**
3. A Compassionate and Caring testimony. **Luke 4:18** “*Ministry involves having a **HEART** for those who **HURT.**”*

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C. The edification of the church
'edifying' - Greek [OIKODOME]
means to **BUILD**, as in "*to build a building.*" Ephesians 4 paints the picture of "*the work of the ministry*" as **BODY BUILDING.**

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III. GOD'S PRIORITY FOR THE CHURCH - Ephesians 4:13

A. The Church's Unity

B. The Church's Maturity