

“Body Building, Part 2”

Ephesians 4:12

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*“for the preparation of the saints, for the work of the ministry
for the building up of the body of Christ”*

Ephesians 4:1-16 is a unit that tells of God’s plan to build the Church—the Body of Christ—to maturity. God is building His Church through His people. And He has equipped His people for the task by bestowing spiritual gifts on them through Christ. In Ephesians 4:12, Paul highlights God’s threefold plan of how our ministry can contribute to the fulfillment of His master-plan.

God gave sufficient resources for true ministry—biblical truth

“for the equipping (perfecting [KJV]) of the saints” [NKJV; NASB]

“to prepare God’s people” [NIV]

A. gifted men—pastors (elders), teachers, evangelists (4:11)

“preach the Word” (2 Timothy 4:2)

B. Scripture

“All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching...

*so that the man of God may be **adequate** [artios = fit, complete, capable, sufficient, able to meet all the demands]*

***thoroughly furnished** [ex+artizo = to fully equip, outfit or supply] *for all good works”**

2. God gave specific requirements for true ministry—spiritual service

“for the work of the ministry” [KJV]

“for the work of service” [NKJV; NASB]

“for works of service” [NIV]

A. “work” = *ergon*, means active labor (1 Corinthians 15:58)

**every saint is active*

B. “service” is from *diakonias*, meaning ‘service,’ from which we get “deacon” or a “servant, table waiter, bus boy”; it is serving the Lord by serving others; even menial and mundane acts are called *diakonias* and are a pleasing aroma to God.

**every Christian is called to a ministry*

3. God gave a promised result from true ministry—healthy growth

“to the building up (edifying [KJV]) of the body of Christ” [NKJV;

NASB] “so that the body of Christ may be built up” [NIV]

A. individual growth-

B. corporate growth-

**“building up” is from *oikadomein* and means “to construct”; it was used in 2:21 in a similar manner and is the same word used by Jesus when He promised that He would “build” the Church (Matthew 16:18); Jesus started the true “church growth” movement...but real, healthy growth must be done His way*

In light of Ephesians 4:12 every Christian should be able to answer at least three questions:

1. Who is training/teaching/mentoring/discipling you for ministry in the local church?
2. What is your ministry in your local church?
3. If you don’t currently have a ministry in the local church, when will you pursue one?