

*Eph 4:11-16 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. ¹³ *till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ -- ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love**

(NIV) Ephesians 4:12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

I. GOD'S LIFE AND POWER DISPLAYED THROUGH HIS PEOPLE

- A. God has given everyone spiritual gifts. It is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in you (1 Cor. 3:16; 1 Cor. 12:1-31; Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Pet 4:10-11)

1 Cor 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.

1 Cor. 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

- B. God has prepared a ministry specifically for you. God created you. God prepared good works beforehand for you to do. Your personality, your background, experience, spiritual gifts, natural talents and abilities, and sphere of influence are all part of God's design. No one else can fulfill your ministry, so you must be a good steward of God's gifts, become accountable to your call in ministry. Your mission cannot be accomplished by anyone else. We are a member of the Body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12-14).

Eph. 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

1 Pet. 4:10-11 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- C. God gives the five-fold ministry/offices to equip the church. Their job is not to do the ministry, but to prepare, equip (lit.) the body of Christ for the work of ministry. The Ministry was never meant to be the domain of professional clergy that did the ministry.

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- D. Works of ministry does not necessarily mean a church building, programs, and events. In fact, this view can be limiting since virtually all ministry in the New Testament happened outside of the church building and apart from any programs. Ministry is what God's people do everywhere, all the time, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

II. GOD EMPOWERS HIS PEOPLE TO DO THE WORK OF MINISTRY

- A. God releases His extraordinary power through ordinary people.

Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- B. God's enrolls us in the school of the Holy Spirit and teaches us. It is important that we remain teachable.

1 John 2:27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

- C. Jesus' ministry continues through ordinary people who believe in Him (Eph. 1:18-19).

John 14:12 " Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

Eph 1:18-19 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

John 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."