

Building up of itself in Love

Eph 4:11 - And He Himself gave some as **apostles** and some as **prophets** and some as **evangelists** and some as **shepherds and teachers**,

Eph 4:12 - For the **perfecting** of the saints unto the **work of the ministry**, unto the **building up of the Body of Christ**,

Eph 4:13 - Until we all **arrive** at the oneness of the faith and of the **full knowledge** of the **Son of God**, at a **full-grown man**, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Eph 4:14 - That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,

Eph 4:15 - But **holding to truth in love**, we may **grow up into Him** in all things, who is the Head, **Christ**,

Eph 4:16 - Out from whom all the **Body**, being **joined** together and being **knit** together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the **operation** in the measure of each one part, **causes** the growth of the **Body** unto the **building up of itself in love**.

The **gifted persons** are for the perfecting of the saints.

- **perfect** the saints **in** the divine dispensing in order that all the saints may be able to do the work of the New Testament ministry, that is, to build up the Body of Christ.
- **perfect** the saints **by** nourishing them according to the tree of life with the life supply for their growth in life (**Gen. 2:9**; **1 Cor. 3:2, 6**).
- **perfect** the saints **to** do what they do for the direct building up of the Body of Christ.

The **apostles** perfect the saints

- by **visiting** the churches (**Acts 15:36, 40-41**; **20:20, 31**),
- by **writing** epistles to the churches (**Col. 4:16**; **1 Cor. 1:2**), and
- by **assigning** their co-workers to stay in certain places to perfect the saints (**1 Tim. 1:3-4**; **3:15**; **Titus 1:5**).

The **prophets** perfect the saints

- by **teaching** them to speak the Lord into people,
- by **speaking** in the meetings to set up a model, and
- by **helping** the saints to live a prophesying life by being revived every morning and overcoming every day (**Acts 13:1**; **1 Cor. 14:31**; **Prov. 4:18**).

The **evangelists** perfect the saints

- by **stirring** them up to be burning in the gospel-preaching spirit,
- by **teaching** them with gospel truths,
- by **training** them to preach the gospel,
- by **helping** the saints to be equipped with the power of the economical Spirit, and
- by **setting** an example of loving the sinners and praying for them (**2 Tim. 4:5**).

The **shepherd-teachers** perfect the saints

- by **shepherding**—feeding and nourishing the young saints and teaching the growing saints (**Acts 11:25-26**; **13:1**).

The **result** of this perfecting is that **we will all arrive**

- **at** the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God,
- **at** a full-grown man, and
- **at** the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (**Eph. 4:13**; cf. **John 17:23**).

This perfecting will cause us to be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a satanic system of error (**Eph. 4:14**).