

PERFECTING THE SAINTS

Ephesians 4:11-12

By Raymond White

***Ephesians 4:11** And he gave some apostles; and some prophets; and some pastors and teachers. **:12** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*

As this verse reads in our King James Version, it would appear that the leaders of the church (apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers) have everything to do (perfect the saints, work the ministry, edify the body) while the saints themselves have nothing to do. It's amazing the misunderstanding that can result from a small mistranslation.

In **:12**, there are three prepositions: for, for, and for (Greek: pros, pros, pros). That, however, is incorrect. In the Greek, there are indeed three prepositions, but they are not pros, pros, pros, but pros, eis, eis; that is: for, to, to. So the correct translation is:

***Ephesians 4:12** For the perfecting of the saints, to do the work of the ministry, to do the edifying of the body of Christ.*

Now the verse has an entirely different meaning. Yes, Christ gave apostles, prophets, pastors and teachers; and, yes, so they can perfect the saints. But not so the apostles, etc. could also do the work of the ministry and all the edifying, but so that the perfected saints would do all that. The job of the leaders is to perfect the saints so that the saints can do the work. It's called delegation.

I wonder how many churches out there consist of members who do nothing and expect their leaders to do everything. Well, that's not the program. If you're one of those attend-church-only Christians, it may be time you thought about contributing something more of yourself to the cause of Christ. Go to your pastor, priest, bishop or whatever and say, "It's time I did more. What do you have for me?" You may be surprised. He may be praying for just such a willing person as you.