

Ephesians 4:11-16

The Perfecting of the saints, The Work of the Ministry, The Edifying of the Body of Christ

The Work of the Ministry

Background Scripture: *Therefore, seeing we have this ministry, as we have received, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the Word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel is hidden, it is hidden to them that are lost [II Corinthians 4:1-3]*

Ministry: (Greek- diakonia) [dee-ak-on-ee-ah]: attendance (as a servant) (eleemosynary) aid, official service, a teacher or technician of the diaconate (administrator, administration, ministry), office, relief service; also attendant, to run errands, a waiter (at table or in other menial duties), teacher, pastor, deacon, deaconess, minister, servant.

Eleemosynary: of, for, or supported by charity.

[Discussion]: The Ministry of Reconciliation:

[II Corinthians 5:18-20]: *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself, by Jesus Christ, and hath given us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are Ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*

Reconciliation: (Greek-Katallage: Kat-al-lag-ay): exchange (adjustment), i.e., restore to divine favor (grace).

Note: Reconciliation is one aspect of Christ's work of redemption-the restoration of the sinner to fellowship with God. (1) the sin and rebellion of the human race have resulted in hostility toward and alienation from God [**Ephesians 2:3/ Colossians 1:21**]. This rebellion elicits the wrath of and judgement of God. (2) The church has been given the ministry of reconciliation, calling all people to be reconciled to God.

[Galatians 6:1]: *Brethren, if a man/woman be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

Note: the word "restore" (Greek-Katartizo) is used in the NT for mending fishing nets (**Matthew 4:21**) or for perfecting human character (**II Corinthians 13:11**). Thus, to restore a person means to lead him/her back to true repentance and to a full commitment to Jesus Christ and His ways, this may involve disciplinary action, undertaken "Gently."

Final Thought: *And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen. [Mark 16:20]*