

Ministry: The Responsibility and Privilege of Every Saint

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Ephesians 4:1-3 reminds us that we should be eager to maintain the _____ that has been won for us by Jesus Christ.

**Church leaders play an important role in that unity.
In Ephesians 4:11-12, shepherd/teachers are called:**

1. To _____ the saints.

What is the sense behind this word?

Sadly, a wrong view of the leadership positions of elder and deacon can actually *threaten* the unity of the church.

It is possible to develop an unbiblical mindset where we think that the elders and the deacons are equipped to do the professional level ministry, but the average Christian is not qualified enough to do important spiritual work.

What are the shepherd/teachers equipping the saints for?

2. For the work of _____

What specific parts of church work would you consider 'ministry'?

Do you see *yourself* as equipped to do that kind of work?

QUESTION: Who are the leaders equipping in verse 12?

The _____ – which refers not to the 'all-star' believers but to everyone who puts their faith in Jesus Christ! How would your participation in God's church change if you began to view yourself as a saint?

3. That the body of Christ (the church) might be _____

Participating in the work of ministry together helps to build our unity and guards us against a two-class view of the church.

What are we being *built up* into? See Ephesians 4:15-16

What kind of problems does this artificial separation between clergy and the layman lead to?

1 Peter 2:9 describes every believer as part of a _____.
Why does God see us as priests, and what does that mean for us?

The Old Testament priest was responsible for offering physical sacrifices, the New Testament priest is responsible for offering _____ sacrifices.

*NOTE: This should not give us a LOW view of elders and deacons. (see 1 Timothy 5:17-20 which urges us to honor the biblical offices of leadership) Rather God's Word helps us to see that their service is not the only important service in the church, or even the greatest! We can each serve in ways that help the lost be found and the found be matured.