

The Work Of A Local Church

Eph. 4:8-12

- **Every Creation Of God Is Very Good.**
 - The heavens and the earth. (Gen. 1:1; 1:31)
 - The marriage relationship. (Gen. 2:18-14)
 - The church as purposed by God before the beginning of the world. (Eph. 3:10-11)
 - 10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, 11 According to *the eternal purpose* which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

- **“Church”**
 - Universal → Comprised of all of the saved in their relationship with Jesus Christ as the head. (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23)
 - When one obeys the gospel, God adds them to the church, the body of Christ. (Acts 2:47; I Cor. 12:13)
 - Local → The Christians in a given locality who team together to worship and do the work of the Lord collectively. (I Cor. 1:1; Gal. 1:2; Rev. 1:4)
 - God has provided the church with all that it needs to do the work that He has given it to do.

- **Text: Eph. 4:8-12**

- **A Look At This Text:**
 - Apostles: (Jn. 16:13; Acts 1:8; Eph. 2:20; Eph. 3:3-5; II Tim. 3:16-17)
 - Prophets: (Acts 19:6; Eph. 2:20; I Cor. 13:8-13)
 - Evangelists: (II Tim. 4:1-5)
 - Pastors: (Acts 14:23; I Pet. 5:2; 20:28; Heb. 13:17)
 - Teachers: (II Tim. 2:2; Acts 15:35)
 - Deacons: (Phil. 1:1; I Tim. 3:8-13)

- **The Goal Of These Gifts...**
 - For the perfecting of the saints...
 - “perfecting” → prepare; to train; to equip the saints;
 - Putting a person or thing into the condition in which it ought to be
 - Used of ...
 - Mending nets. (Mk. 1:19)
 - Restoring the erring. (Gal. 6:1)
 - Eph. 4:12 → putting saints in the condition they ought to be to do the work of the Lord.

- **The Work Of A Local Church:**
 - For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry,
 - Teaching and preaching the gospel: (Acts 20:24; II Cor. 4:1; I Tim. 1:12; II Tim. 4:5)
 - Benevolence: (II Cor. 9:1; Rom. 15:31)
 - for the edifying of the body of Christ:
 - Spiritual strengthening.
 - As a church does its work of ministry and worships and studies in God’s appointed way, it will build up itself in love. (Eph. 4:16)