

Translations of Ephesians 4:12

Read the various translations and answer the following two questions of each translation:

1. What does the Word-based office holder do?
2. Who does the work of ministry?

Bold print in texts refers to the Greek *katartismos*. Originally a medical term associated with the healing and mending of broken bones. Some possible translations: complete, restore, make complete, equip. A difficulty with this usage in Ephesians 4:12 is that it is the only occurrence of it in the NT.

Pre 1970 Versions

1599 Geneva Bible

¹²For the **repairing** of the Saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edification of the body of Christ,

- 1.
- 2.

1611 Authorized Version/King James Version (1901 American Standard Version is similar)

¹²For the **perfecting** of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

- 1.
- 2.

Post 1970 Versions

New International Version

¹²**to equip** his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

- 1.
- 2.

English Standard Version (New King James Version is similar)

¹²**to equip** the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

- 1.
- 2.

Some Possible Implications for: Ministry Models, The Great Commission, Etc.

	Popular view (NIV, etc) Pastor as Equipper of Saints	Older view (KJV, etc) Pastor as Minister of Means of Grace
	← Views of individuals and churches may be on a spectrum →	
Pastor's Role	"Vision caster" for various ministries	Preach and teach the Word, administer sacraments, provide counsel (teach Word in private)
Great Commission	An every member ministry	The task of the church through her officers as they have been called to baptize, discipline and teach.
Mission work	Ordained officer if possible, but not essential	Unordained associates must accompany called and ordained officers
Criticisms	Captive to culture (egalitarian), Reads this idea into the text, Ignores Gk. Grammar and vocab(?)	Dead orthodoxy; fails to appreciate "priesthood of all believers"; Clericalism; stifles the Spirit

Things in common: Christ is the head of the church; we should be glad for God's gifting us our pastor; every believer is responsible to use his/her gifts for the glory of God and the edification of the body; we are all to witness to Christ and the unity of His Body.

For further reading:

"Equipping Ministry" in Ephesians 4? https://www.etsjets.org/files/JETS-PDFs/37/37-1/JETS_37-1_069-078_Gordon.pdf

"Equipping the Saints"? Why Ephesians 4:11-12 Opposes the Theology and Practice of Lay Ministry Robert Mayes

Commentaries that support pre "1970 reading" Calvin, Hodge, Baugh, Lincoln, Schnackenberg

Commentaries that support post "1970 reading": Markus Barth, Obrien, Hoehner, Talbert