

PERFECT SAINTS

"perfecting" = "To bring to a condition of fitness."

Eph. 4:12

Perfect Saints are known by their:

I. MINISTRY - "for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry"

1. Some suggest that we omit the comma, translate: "for the perf. of the saints for the work of the ministry," that is, the saints are to do the work of the ministry.
2. In a sense every Christian is in the work of the ministry.
3. What is the work of the ministry?
 - A. Ministry of reconciliation. 2 Cor. 5:18.
 - B. Ministry of prayer. Dan. 6:10
 - C. Ministry of the Word. Acts. 6:4
 - D. Ministry of love. 2 Cor. 6:4, 6
 - E. Ministry of service. Rev. 22:3

(root meaning of ministry is really "to serve at the table," as a slave waits on the guests.)

II. THEY ARE KNOWN BY THEIR UNITY

"Til we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God."

ΕΝΟΤΗΣ = "oneness" or "unity"

1. Unity of Faith. Eph. 4:13 - to Christ divide
2. Unity of knowledge of the Son of God. Jno. 9:25, "one thing I know."

3. Unity of Compassion. I Cor. 12:26
"whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it."
4. Unity of the Spirit. Eph. 4:3
5. Unity of purpose. Phil. 3:13
Carrying out the Great Commission.

III THEY ARE KNOWN By their MATURITY.

"unto a perfect (mature) man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

1. the meaning of maturity
τέλειον = full grown, mature, complete.
(having reached its utmost development.)
2. the manifestation of maturity.

I Cor. 13:11 - "when I was a child,
I thought as a child, I reasoned as a child,
I spoke as a child; but when I became
a man I gave up childish ways."

A. Childish Thinking

B. Childish Speaking

C. Childish Acting

D. Spiritual maturity

11. Children are tossed to and fro by the wind, but mature men set their sails and make the wind work for them to drive them where they want to go.

12. Christ is the standard of maturity and perfection; we must grow up into Him.