The Design of God's Gifts (Ephesians 4:11-12)

(Why does God distribute gifts?)

The Pastor-teacher

1) _ Equips the Saints

2) _ To Minister to others

3) _ To Edify the Body

"For (pros) . . . for (eis) . . . for (eis . . ."

Those gifted offices were given for 1) specific purpose leading toward 2) results

"Perfecting the saints" is a significant phrase itself. It speaks of bringing believers to maturity -- not sinless perfection, but spiritual excellence (MacArthur)

"Perfecting" -

2 ideas in one word:

1) To repair (like a doctor)
   a) Used of repairing broken bones
   b) Used of mending broken fishing nets
   c) Used of restoring an erring brother (Gal. 66:1)

2) To equip (like a coach)
   To furnish (II Tim. 3:17) or outfit. To provide what is necessary for the task.

"For the work of the ministry" - for the work of serving ("diakonia")

The work of the evangelist and pastor-teacher is to get every believer involved in serving (whether in an official or unofficial capacity)

The goal of preaching is not to simply educate God's people; it's to motivate them to serve! Preaching is to be not only doctrinal but practical.

Every Christian is saved to serve (Eph. 2:10; I Cor. 15:58; I Pet. 2:5, 9; 4:10-11)

NOTE: God's progressive plan for His church:
1) Equipping 2) serving 3) building

"Edifying" - (i.e. edifice) building up; growth; both spiritual and numerical growth occur when everyone is using his/her gift in a ministry.
"The Body" is built up externally through evangelism and internally through discipleship and training.
Only the Word *"is able to build you up"!* (Acts 20:32)
A Body that has parts not working is a sick one.