

“Do the work of an evangelist”

The role of a preacher in the local church



How the world sees the role

- A “pastor”
- A “minister”
- An “intercessor”
- An “employee”

All of these concepts have roots in the idea of “clergy” – a group of people ordained specifically to perform spiritual acts of ministry.

Scriptural roles of leadership

- Eph. 4:1-16 – the united work of the body
 - Apostles – Luke 24:47-48, Acts 1:21-26, 1 Cor. 15:8-9, 2 Cor. 12:12, Gal. 1:1
 - Prophets – Acts 13:1, 15:32, 21:10, 1 Cor. 14:29-32
 - Evangelists – Acts 21:8, 2 Tim. 4:5
 - Shepherds (pastors) – 1 Peter 5:1-4, 1 Tim. 3:1-7
 - Teachers – James 3:1, Acts 13:1, 2 Tim. 1:11, Heb. 5:12
- Five distinct roles, with a common overall purpose: “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ”

The role of an evangelist

- “Do the work of an evangelist ... fulfill your ministry,” 2 Tim. 4:1-5
 - Preach the word
 - Reprove and rebuke
 - Exhort
- An effective minister of the gospel
 - 1 Tim. 4:6-16
 - 1 Tim. 5:19-25
 - 2 Tim. 2:1-2,8,14-16,21-25
 - Titus 2:11-3:11

The role of an evangelist

- Keep yourself pure, an example of good works
- Devote yourself to better understand, handle the word of truth
- Encourage the brethren to perform good works, remain pure
- Train and entrust others to teach
- Point out and condemn error and sin when it occurs – even among elders
- Behave with gentleness, kindness, love, impartiality
- Do not entertain empty, foolish discussions

Is an evangelist an “employee?”

- Evangelists are “given to” the local body, not “hired by! Eph. 4:11
 - Evangelists often work with multiple groups for varying periods of time, going wherever there is a need
 - Support might come from local church (1 Cor. 9:3-14), from other churches (2 Cor. 11:9), or from individual labor (Acts 18:3-6, 2 Thes. 3:8)
 - Some local works appear not to have had a “full time evangelist” (Antioch, Corinth, others?)
 - Local churches may have a need and “call” (Acts 16:9)
- Laboring “with,” not “for”
 - The message of the evangelist is not determined by the audience, 1 Tim. 4:3-5, 1 Cor. 4:1-4
 - Phil. 1:5, 4:15 – ESV “entered into partnership,” sharing, fellowship
 - “Laboring in the kingdom” is not just for the evangelist! 1 Thes. 1:3, 1 Cor. 15:58

Is an evangelist a “minister?”

- Where is the focus of the evangelist?
 - Focusing on study, teaching, ministry of the word
 - Compare to Acts 6:1-4, the idea of “entanglements” 2 Tim. 2:4
- An evangelist is called to be an example in good works – not the appointed doer of good works! (Acts 6:2-5)
 - “To equip the saints for the work of the ministry (service)” Titus 2:14, 3:8, Gal. 6:9-10
 - “What every join supplies” – Christians cannot “outsource” their own responsibilities!

Is an evangelist an “intermediary?”

- Does the preacher’s prayer carry more weight?
 - Evangelists pray for the work, as should all Christians!
Col. 1:9, 2 Thes. 1:11, 3:1
 - Intercessory prayer is for all righteous Christians, for each other, James 5:13-16
- Is our relationship, our dependence, our reliance on the evangelist? Or on our brothers and sisters?
 - Following the examples of those who follow sound teaching, Phil. 3:17, Heb. 13:7
 - A culture of caring throughout the church, 1 Cor. 12:20-27

Is an evangelist a “pastor?”

- Pastors/elders tasked with leadership of the flock
 - Heb. 13:17, Acts 20:27-28 – oversight, care, responsibility
 - Specific qualifications, men in specific stages of life
 - Elders appointed from within, Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5 – a lifetime relationship (comp. Paul, Apollos, et al 1 Cor. 16:12)
 - An evangelist may be an elder as well (1 Peter 5:1, 3 John 1) IF he is qualified to be one!
- Titles mean something!
 - The evangelist is a brother, a helper, a fellow-worker...

... but he is not “the work”

- 1 Cor. 3:1-4:4
 - We do not “follow” men, particularly not one over the other, v 4
 - The identify of the evangelist, the work of the evangelist is NOT central to the growth of a church, v. 7
 - Our first responsibility is to the vineyard, not to the laborers
 - We belong to God, not to any man
 - Our fellowship with an evangelist is linked completely to our fellowship with God in Christ

**“THIS IS HOW ONE SHOULD REGARD US,
AS SERVANTS OF CHRIST AND STEWARDS
OF THE MYSTERIES OF GOD.”**

- 1 CORINTHIANS 4:1

