“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
  – 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
  – Specific qualifications, men in specific stages of life
  – 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 identity 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