

Eph 4:11-14

- And he gave the **apostles**, the **prophets**, the **evangelists**, the **shepherds** and **teachers**,
- **[What]** To **equip** the **saints** for the work of **ministry**, for **building up** the body of Christ, until we all attain to the **unity** of the faith and of the **knowledge** of the Son of God, to **mature** manhood, to the measure of the stature of the **fullness** of Christ,
- **[Why]** So that we may *no longer be children*, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes

Biblical Roles 4

Hagerstown Church of Christ

22-Mar-2026

Remember the Bible Roles?

Refresher Lesson 1a

Eph 4:11-14 — And he gave the **apostles**, the **prophets**, the **evangelists**, the **shepherds** and **teachers**...

Over a year ago — 23-Feb-2025

- **Apostles** (Messenger / Witnesses) — selected by Jesus Christ
- **Prophets** (fore-tell, tell-forth; confirm the word) — given by the laying of the hands of one of the Apostles
- **Shepherds** (aka: Elder, Overseer) — defined, specific **spiritual** qualifications
 - Selected **from** among the local assembly (known by the people, demonstrated)
 - Selected **by** the local assembly (determine who best satisfies those qualifications)
 - Scope / authority to shepherd **that local assembly**
 - Intended to be a **plurality** in every congregation (without ranking, one voice)
 - No authority over any other assembly **independent** of all other assemblies
 - No higher authority, **no hierarchy**, except Jesus Christ

Remember the Bible Roles?

Refresher Lesson **1b**

- **Servants / Ministers / Waiter / Attendants / Deacons** (transliteration)
 - Also have defined, specific *spiritual* qualifications (some overlapping with Elders)
 - Selected **from** among the local assembly (known by the people, demonstrated)
 - Selected **by** the local assembly
 - Serve the physical needs of **that local assembly**
 - Have to be “Serving” **BEFORE** being selected as a “Servant”
- **Apostles & Prophets** became the **foundation** of the **household of God**
- **Shepherds & Deacons** became the (repeated) **structure** for **local leadership for each assembly**

Remember the Bible Roles?

Refresher Lesson 2


Slightly over a year ago — 02-Mar-2025

- **Teachers** (Rabbi, Instructors)
 - Passes on the Apostles' teachings (simplest form = reading of the letters)
 - Typically, **internal** focus, the body, the local assembly - **growth in Maturity**
 - Delivers the “doctrine” to the assembly, a study group, a class, an individual
 - Talking = typically **two-way** communication (teacher and student)
- **Evangelists** (Preachers, Proclaimers)
 - Share the “Good News”, **go forth** - **growth Numerically**
 - Typically, **external** focus (to the lost, outside the assembly), mission work

Remember the Bible Roles?

Refresher Lesson 3

Less than a year ago — 27-Apr-2025

- **Saints / Children of God / Fellow-Soldiers** - everyone's responsibilities
 - **Build up the Body** — Command to encourage, give gentle influence by words, comfort, exhort, edify, submit to one another
 - **Contribute** — Bring a hymn, psalms, spiritual song, lesson, discovery, verse, insight, thanksgiving, wisdom
 - **Participate, not a spectator** — listen, take notes, study, test, greet and talk with visitors, share updates on sick and shut-ins, **make every effort!**
 - Not (**only**) Elders, Deacons, or Preacher (**all Christians**)
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Key Take Aways:

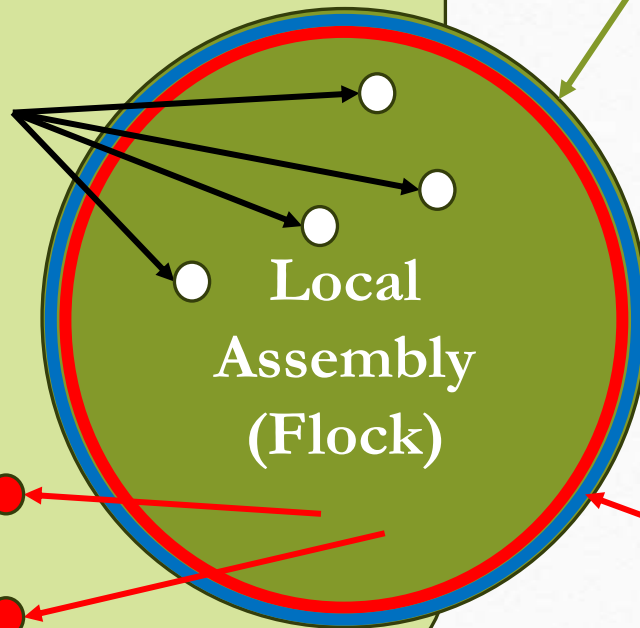
No Biblical Qualifications for a Teacher or Evangelist

- No requirements, no restrictions, except in **content** — i.e., “not a different doctrine”
- Therefore, **anyone** can be a teacher or evangelist (guided & supported by the elders)
- Therefore, **everyone** should strive to be a teacher, at some level (e.g., to a spouse, children, grand children, nieces & nephews, younger men, younger women, co-workers, class, assembly, etc.)
- Teaching is a “training ground” for future **Deacons** and **Elders** (i.e., mature Christians)

The Lord's Body, Christ's Church ...

Under The Local Eldership:

- Teachers **selected from** within the Assembly
- Evangelists (or support) **sent out** from Assembly



Candidates for **Elders** and **Deacons** come from Assembly

Assembly selects **Elders** and **Deacons**

Scope of **Elders'** Authority is the Assembly

Evangelists 2nd Century

Tertullian (160-220)

“Let the young persons of the Church endeavor to minister diligently with all appropriate seriousness. So that you will always have sufficient funds to support both yourselves and those that are needy, and not burden the Church of God. For we ourselves, besides our attention to the word of the Gospel, do not neglect our inferior employments. For some of us are **fishermen, tentmakers, and farmers**, so that we may never be idle.”

Corruption of Leadership

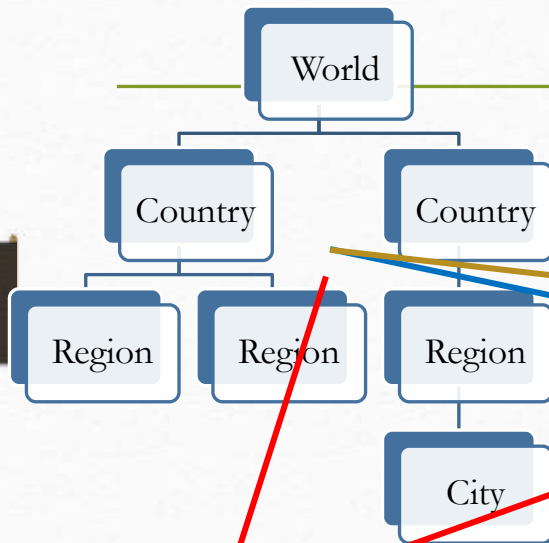
Historical Perspective

- Under **Constantine's** vision for **one empire** and **one Christian faith**, fully-funded positions emerged. This allowed paid preachers to become more common in the 4th century, and it developed into a “professional **clergy**”.
- This practice was corrupted further by **Augustine of Hippo** (354-430) who distinguished between the “**active life**” and the “**contemplative life**”. This led to the development of a “higher order”, a “sacred vocation”.
- God's definition of leadership roles and responsibilities **were ignored**.
- Congregation level leadership gradually became replaced by a person, or persons, who may have been called preacher, minister, pastor, priest, reverend, father, monk, bishop, presbyter, episcopate, etc.

The World

Misuses terms:
“Pastor” “Bishop”
“Priest” “Father”
“Minister” etc.

Organization
Establishes Schools,
Credentials, Degrees,
and Certifications



Schools supply
candidates for
“Pastors”

Organization Selects
or Ordains
“Pastors”

“Missionaries”
(sent out) from the
Hierarchy or from
Schools

Broadened Scope of
Pastors’ Authority

Local
Assembly

We Challenge You...

- Understand God's plan for leadership in the local assembly. Although led by imperfect humans, God's design is *superior* to what has been invented by men and traditions!
- Commit to memory the church **roles, qualifications, and responsibilities**, as defined by scripture — including those that apply to **every Christian**.
- Remain committed to **Christ** and the **gospel**, and not to any human (be it an elder, deacon, evangelist, or teacher).
- Take advantage of *every* opportunity to study God's word, no matter who is teaching, preaching, leading, or reading.
- Be the **best image of Christ** that you can be, and a faithful disciple of God's word!

Bottom Line...

- Our Goal is to be the **body of Christ**
 - To restore New Testament Christianity in Spirit and Truth.
 - To be the local **congregation** or **ekklēsia** of the **Lord** here in Hagerstown
 - To bring the good news, the gospel, to the lost in the Great Valley (MD, PA, & WV)
 - To encourage each other to be faithful until death, so that we can share eternity in Christ
- Make every effort to **encourage** one another, but especially those who volunteer to **evangelize** and **teach**.
- **Pray** for one another, and for your elders as we attempt to do our best to shepherd the flock!

Remember Our Roots!

The Beginnings of the Hagerstown church

- Originally, all women, except for Jim Carpenter
- He lead singing, said prayers, served communion, collected offering, and delivered the sermon
- Met in the second floor of the fire station downtown
- Later met on Virginia Avenue, heated by a pot belly stove in winter, with an outhouse
- *Don't let convenience limit your faithfulness!*