

T – Two Offices (and only two offices)

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Philippians 1:1

PAUL and **Timotheus** (Παῦλος καὶ Τιμόθεος),
the servants (δοῦλοι Ἰησοῦ χριστοῦ) of **Jesus Christ**,
to all the saints (πᾶσιν τοῖς ἁγίοις ἐν χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ) in **Christ Jesus**
which are at **Philippi** (τοῖς οὖσιν ἐν Φιλίπποις),
with (σὺν)
the **bishops** (ἐπισκόποις)
and **deacons** (διακόνους):

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles (τοὺς μὲν ἀποστόλους); and some, prophets (τοὺς δὲ προφήτας); and some, evangelists (τοὺς δὲ εὐαγγελιστάς); and some, pastors (τοὺς δὲ ποιμένας καὶ διδασκάλους) and teachers;

Ephesians 4:12 **For** the perfecting of the saints, **for** the work of the ministry, **for** the edifying of the body of Christ:

Ephesians 4:13 **Till** we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Ephesians 4:14 **That** we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Baptists have not always done well with the offices of the local church:

A. Some churches have introduced **extra (unbiblical / nonbiblical) offices into the local church**

- Trustees / trustee boards
- Ministry boards / director of ministry boards
- Deacon “boards” – often like a family fiefdom
- Elder boards – of the non-teaching kind

B. Modern churches have introduced **hidden (in plain sight) offices!**

- Worship leaders
- Worship teams
- Worship pastor

These:

- Are not mentioned in the NT
- Meet no Biblical requirements
- **Dominat**e typical contemporary worship!

C. Some create purely **unbiblical offices:**

- **Bishops** → meaning men over other churches / more than one church!
- **Deacons** → as a kind of a pastor / pastor-in-training
- **Evangelist** → as an itinerant firebrand / revivalist → who often sees himself above local church pastors.

This was common in the USA from 1870s – 1970s

Acts 21:8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of **Philip the evangelist** (Φιλίππου τοῦ εὐαγγελιστοῦ), which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, **evangelists** (τοὺς δὲ εὐαγγελιστάς); and some, pastors and teachers;

2 Timothy 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, **do the work of an evangelist** (ἔργον ποιήσον εὐαγγελιστοῦ), make full proof of thy ministry.

So, what are the two Biblical offices? Introductory thoughts:

- **Local churches were, are, and will always be **under** the headship of Christ!!!**

He is the center, circumference, cause...!

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

Philippians 1:1 PAUL and Timotheus, **the servants of Jesus Christ**, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

➤ **Local churches submit to the headship of Christ via the Apostle's Doctrine / New Testament**

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly **in the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon **the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;**

Philippians 1:1 PAUL and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

2 Peter 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: **2**

Peter 3:2 **That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:**

2 Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

➤ **Local churches are often started by evangelists...that is, missionaries or church planters!**

These are men who are gifted / highly gifted in starting things, evangelism, getting the ball rolling but who don't do as well long term.