

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.

1. Local churches are **led** by the Pastors

➤ Pastor are called by **3 names** (elders, pastors, overseers)

➤ The 3 names focus on **3 functions**:

A. **Elder**: leading – as a mature believer

B. **Overseer**: overseeing - the local church & **never** other churches

C. **Pastor / shepherd**: feeding, shepherding

➤ **The three names and functions are all **one** office!**

Acts 20:17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders (τοὺς πρεσβυτέρους τῆς ἐκκλησίας) of the church.

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers (ἐπισκόπους), to feed (ποιμαίνειν) the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

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 (ἐπισκόποις) and deacons:

1 Timothy 3:1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop (ἐπισκοπῆς), he desireth a good work.

Titus 1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders

(πρεσβυτέρους) in every city, as I had appointed thee: **Titus 1:6** If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. **Titus 1:7** For a bishop (ἐπίσκοπον) must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

1 Peter 5:1 The elders (Πρεσβυτέρους) which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder (συμπρεσβύτερος), and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: **1 Peter 5:2** Feed (ποιμάνετε τὸ ἐν ὑμῖν ποίμνιον τοῦ Θεοῦ) the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight (ἐπισκοποῦντες) thereof, **not** by constraint, but willingly; **not** for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; **1 Peter 5:3** Neither as being lords (κατακυριεύοντες) over God's heritage, but being ensamples (τύποι) to the flock. **1 Peter 5:4** And when the chief Shepherd (τοῦ ἀρχιποίμενος) shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

➤ **A plurality of elders is the norm / goal – not the absolute requirement**

Acts 11:30 Which also they did, and sent it to **the elders** by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 14:23 And when they had ordained them **elders** in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Acts 15:4 And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received **of the church, and of the apostles and elders**, and they declared all things that God had done with them.

Acts 15:6 And **the apostles and elders** came together for to consider of this matter.

Acts 15:22 Then pleased it **the apostles and elders, with the whole church**, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

Acts 15:23 And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The **apostles and elders** and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

Acts 15:25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

➤ **Elders must meet the Biblical qualifications / requirements**

1 Timothy 3:1 This is a true saying. If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. **1 Timothy 3:2** A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; **1 Timothy 3:3** Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; **1 Timothy 3:4** One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; **1 Timothy 3:5** (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) **1 Timothy 3:6** Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. **1 Timothy 3:7** Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Titus 1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: **Titus 1:6** If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

Titus 1:7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; **Titus 1:8** But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; **Titus 1:9** Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

2. Local Churches are **served** by the deacons

This is, of course, tautology – saying the same thing twice!

Deacon (διάκονος, διακονία, διακονέω) = servant, service, and to serve!

➤ **The servant is the greatest of all (according to Jesus)!**

Matthew 20:25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, **Ye know** that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. **Matthew 20:26** **But it shall not be so among you:** but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister (διάκονος); **Matthew 20:27** And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant (δοῦλος): **Matthew 20:28** **Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto (οὐκ ἦλθεν διακονηθῆναι), but to minister (ἀλλὰ διακονῆσαι), and to give his life a ransom for many.**

Luke 22:24 And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest. **Luke 22:25** And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

Luke 22:26 **But ye shall not be so:** but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger (ὁ νεώτερος); and he that is chief, as he that doth serve (ὡς ὁ διακονῶν). **Luke 22:27** **For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth (ὁ διακονῶν)? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth (Ἐγὼ δέ εἰμι ἐν μέσῳ ὑμῶν ὡς ὁ διακονῶν).**

➤ **All Christians are to aspire to become servants – servants of God**

In our particular calling

In & through our local church

Of our fellow humans

➤ **Deacons are the official servants**

➤ **Deacons are chosen by the pastors and church members**

➤ **Chosen to serve in areas that allow the pastors to focus on their area of service / ministry / work**

Acts 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily **ministration (ἐν τῇ διακονίᾳ)**. **Acts 6:2** Then the twelve called the

multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, **It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve (διακονεῖν τραπέζαις) tables. Acts 6:3** Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business (ἐπὶ τῆς χρείας ταύτης). **Acts 6:4** But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry (τῇ διακονίᾳ τοῦ λόγου) of the word. **Acts 6:5** And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: **Acts 6:6** Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. **Acts 6:7** And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

- **Therefore chosen to serve the pastors and church to forward the mission of the church**
- **Chosen because they are already servants**
- **Chosen because they already meet the Biblical requirements**

1 Timothy 3:8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; **1**

Timothy 3:9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

1 Timothy 3:10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. **1 Timothy 3:11** Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. **1 Timothy 3:12** Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

Acts 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

Acts 6:5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

So men who are:

Already qualified

Already serving

Already supporting the church