

The Five-Fold Ministry

Greater Life Baptist Church

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What is the Five-Fold Ministry of Jesus Christ?

Many believe that the Five-Fold ministry is not in operation today. However, God has still ordained this ministry to be in order to carry out his perfect will and plan for his creation. In Ephesians 4:11-12, the bible states: *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*

To understand the five-fold ministry, you must first understand the five ministries that constitute the five-fold.

- APOSTLE
- PROPHET
- PASTOR
- EVANGELIST
- TEACHER

The point of the five-fold offices is that the Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers are supposed to work together in the local church to carry out the mission and vision of God.

THE OFFICE OF APOSTLE

The word Apostle comes from the Greek term “apostolos”, which means a messenger, envoy, or ambassador. Related to the verb, it refers to one who is sent on behalf of another.

What are the qualifications of an APOSTLE?

- The desire to build up the Body of Christ and bring it to maturity.

Romans 1: 8-11 states: *First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you. I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong*

- An Apostle communicates spiritual truths, which brings about changed lives.
- An Apostles ministry is accompanied by signs and wonders that build up the church.
- Those with an apostolic anointing deliver prophetic preaching
- Those with an apostolic anointing provide doctrinal teaching.

- Those with an apostolic anointing display and inspire servant-leadership.

What is the function of the office of an APOSTLE?

- An Apostle establishes churches that are relevant to the times and the society.

Many churches have lost touch with where people are and what they need due to religious tradition or their preaching, worship and teaching have lost meaning for them as well as for those outside their church doors.

A relevant church reevaluates where it is going and what it is doing. We must be willing allow the Spirit of God to guide and lead our every step.

An Apostle must inspire the dynamics of an apostolic church

- A church that influences the community through each one's personal ministry.
- A church under the Apostolic anointing doesn't run around in circles, but it remains in an offensive posture, ready to take back what the devil stole!

An Apostle establishes order

Many demand sameness and order *quoting* 1 Corinthians 14:40: *Let all things be done decently and in order.*

An Apostle oversees and strengthens churches and ministers.

The elders of a church should be involved in one of the five-fold ministries to ensure the balance of God. They help to provide oversight and guidance to the church. The Apostle will always be the first to establish that order. Some examples from the bible can be found in Acts 14.

An Apostle has the responsibility to provide oversight and guidance

He establishes these services to the various churches and individuals to strengthen, encourage and affirm the gifts and ministries of growing leaders with whom the Lord is raising up.

The Office of an Apostle is the first of the Five-fold ministries and provides government, order, stability, and guidance.

THE OFFICE OF PROPHET

What is the authority of the PROPHET?

When a Prophet is received, he brings with him a two-fold authority:

- First, an authority to bring the church to an awareness of the “NOW”; of God. A Prophet reminds us that God is, now just that He was.
- Second, an authority that brings the church back to the fear of the Lord. Sadly, there is very little fear of the Lord today. The world no longer respects the Lord and His commandments.

How can you tell if a Prophet is a true PROPHET?

They have:

- A ministry that exhorts and strengthens the disciples.
- A message that appeals not to the flesh, but to the spirit.
- Accurate prophetic insight, not just generalities.
- Spiritual discernment in the lives of others.
- The ability to judge other prophetic gifts.

What is the ministry of the PROPHET?

The prophetic assurance: This helps us understand that we are “God-appointed”, “God-anointed”, “God-approved” and “God-assigned.”

Prophetic Power: The “real” thing is what people are looking for today.

Prophetic Teaching: Prophetic teaching usually comes in one of three ways:

- Conventional Theology - All Old Testament is approached as prophecy
- Creation Theology - through Christ, God began a new creation
- Judgment Theology - God's justice is to bring us to repentance.

The office of Prophet serves to declare that Jesus is the source of all gifts.

THE OFFICE OF EVANGELISTS

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

Luke 4:18-19

The Evangelist has a distinct ministry of bearing the message of salvation through Jesus. They have an overwhelming burden to see the lost saved as well as equipping others to share their faith. Part of the Evangelist's calling is to focus the attention of the church on the plight of the lost.

What is the nature and function of the Office of EVANGELIST?

○ The Messenger of the Office

This word specifically refers to the messenger holding the office. This messenger has a resident gift that naturally results in winning souls. This gifting will be recognized and accepted by the church.

- **The Message of the Office**

This word is most often translated “gospel”. Literal meaning - Good message, good tidings of the Kingdom.

- **The Ministry of the Office**

This word essentially means to preach and stresses actual ministry.

Evangelists have a great ability to see the “good” in people, especially those that have been written off by others. The Evangelist sees virtually everyone as “salvageable”. They see people as they may be, not as they are.

What is the Heart of the EVANGELIST?

Strong emphasis on the value of an eternal soul. They are mostly concerned about eternity. Strong emphasis on preaching the Word of God, Jesus Christ and the Kingdom Preaching focused on the cross, repentance and faith in Jesus. The Evangelist reminds the church that Jesus came to seek and to save the lost The Evangelist speaks hope into the church and into society.

THE OFFICE OF PASTOR

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Acts 20:28

What is the nature and function of the PASTOR?

The shepherd of the flock of God

The word pastor comes from the Latin word meaning “herdsman”. This word is used 18 times in the New Testament and is translated “shepherd” in every instance except in Ephesians 4:11 where it is translated as pastor. This word means: to *tend* the flock not merely feed them!

This is where the idea for a Pastor to shepherd, lead, protect, care for, and feed the sheep comes from. The sheep trainer

Remember the purpose of the five-fold ministry. Look at Ephesians 4:12-14

THE OFFICE OF TEACHER

What is the nature and function of the TEACHER?

- Communication is the Foundation
- Communication has taken place when the student hears and understands what the Teacher wants him to hear and understand.

There are several levels of learning. The best example of all can be seen through the ministry of Jesus Christ

Teaching by precept

- Learning is based on what the Teacher says.

Teaching by example

- Learning is based on who the Teacher is in the student's eyes. The teacher may know the subject matter but other factors decrease the opinion of the student.

Teaching by conduct

- Learning is based on what the Teacher does. The student sees the Teacher using the knowledge.

Teaching by modeling

- Learning is based on the teacher living out the principles being taught! Jesus showed his disciples every day what they should do, they saw Him do it and that He believed it in His heart! Good teachers realize that learning is caught more than taught!

Rightly Dividing The Word Of God

Teachers train believers to live on inspiration and instruction of the Word.

Teachers also have the responsibility of teaching the ministry gifts. They can teach those in the five-fold ministries to function in their callings. They teach others their gifts and how to use them for God.