

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 4:11-17.**
- B. This sermon is in response to a request from the BQB (#12). The question reads: **Give a lesson reviewing the roles of deacons, elders, preachers, and members of the church.**
- C. Using Eph. chapter 4 as my main text, let's look at the roles of each member.

I. ELDERS.

- A. Elders are given the overall task of looking after the well-fare of the church (Heb. 13:17).
Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.
- B. The Work of Elders:
 - 1. A watchman (Ac. 20:28-30).
"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. **29** 'I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; **30** and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.'"
 - 2. Mature the church (Eph. 4:11-14).
And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. **14** As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;
 - 3. Discipline (1Th. 5:12-13).
But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, **13** and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.
 - 4. Shepherd (1Pet. 5:1-3).
Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, **2** shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; **3** nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.
 - 5. Prayers for the sick (Jas. 5:13-14).
Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises. **14** Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

II. DEACONS.

- A. The word *deacon* is a transliteration from the Greek, *diakonos*. The word means, a servant or minister who executes the commands of another.
- B. The Work of Deacons:
 - 1. To serve (Ac. 6:1-6).
Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic *Jews* against the *native* Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving *of food*. **2** So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. **3** Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. **4** But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." **5** The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. **6** And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.

2. To do specific tasks (Ac. 6:3).

"But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task."

III. EVANGELISTS.

A. Evangelists are heralds of good things.

B. The Work of Evangelists:

1. Preach and evangelize (2Tim. 4:2).

preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

2. Edify the local church (see Eph. 4:11-16).

3. Appoint elders (Titus 1:5).

For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,

4. Defend the faith (1Tim. 1:3; Ti. 1:10-13).

(1Tim 1:3) As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus, in order that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines,

(Ti 1:10-13) For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, **11** who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach, for the sake of sordid gain. [12] One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." [13] This testimony is true. For this cause reprove them severely that they may be sound in the faith,

5. Train others (2Tim. 2:2).

And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

IV. OTHER MEMBERS.

A. Support the elders, deacons, and preachers in the special ministries.

B. Be teachers of the word of God (Eph. 4:11).

And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,

C. Special gifts in the body (Rom 12:6-8):

Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; **7** if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; **8** or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

1. Prophecy.

5. Giving.

2. Service.

6. Leading.

3. Teaching.

7. Mercy.

4. Exhortation.

D. Notice the following things to be done in the body (see Rom 12:9-21):

1. Brotherly love.

11. Blessing others.

2. Show preference of others.

12. Rejoice and weep.

3. Diligent.

13. Be humble.

4. Fervent in spirit.

14. Be of the same mind.

5. Serving.

15. Associate with the lowly.

6. Rejoicing.

16. Respect what is right.

7. Persevering.

17. Be at peace with all men.

8. Devoted to prayer.

18. Leave room for the wrath of God.

9. Giving to the needs of the saints.

19. Feed and give drink to your enemy.

10. Practicing hospitality.

20. Overcome evil with good.

E. Circle 3 things that you can do, and begin working to do them better each day.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Every part of the body must do its part for it to grow as it should (Eph. 4:16).
- B. Elders--do your part, deacons--do your part, evangelists--do your part.
- C. And members--do your part!
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.