

# Ten Things The Evangelist Is Not...

2 Timothy 2:4, “No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits...” (ESV).

Introduction: In last week’s lesson, we attempted to Biblically define the term “evangelist” and “the work of an evangelist” (2 Timothy 4:5). Unfortunately, sometimes evangelists are expected to do work which may interfere with their primary duties. Today, we want to note a few things the “evangelist is not” and consider a few areas in which others may be able to step up to help spread this work amongst one another. First of all, the evangelist is not...

## I. The Church’s Hospital Chaplain

A. There is nothing wrong with the evangelist visiting and praying for the sick as “*the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much*” (James 5:16).

B. However, James specifically says, “*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*” (5:14).

## II. The Official Church Intercessor

A. Some may have a Catholic view of the evangelist, as if they need to confess their sins to him as they would a priest.

B. Yet, this is a role any “righteous” person may fill as James 5:16 suggests, “*Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*”

## III. The Church Welfare Agent

A. Benevolent needs will arise in a church and sometimes they get sent “to the preacher.”

B. In the early church, deacons were assigned to deal with benevolent problems so the apostles could attend to “*prayer and to the ministry of the word*” (Acts 6:1-4).

## IV. The Official Church Personal Worker

A. When people are missing, when new converts need teaching, when couples need spiritual counseling it is not only the evangelist who can/should do this work.

B. This is a work for “*spiritual*” and “*faithful*” people (Galatians 6:1; 2 Timothy 2:2).

## V. The Church’s Secretary

A. There are things that need to be done in a church—typing, filing, correspondence, printing, publishing online.

B. Yet, if the preacher is consumed by these things it may very well eat away at the time God calls upon him to “*give attention to*” in his primary work (1 Timothy 4:13, 15-16).

## **VI. The Social/Recreational Organizer**

- A. Spending time with one another outside of the regular assemblies is a fun way to connect and hospitality and socialization is a big part of growing together (Acts 2:46-47).
- B. Yet, to “*be hospitable*” is a work enjoined upon all Christians (Hebrews 13:2; 1 Peter 4:9).

## **VII. The Youth Director**

- A. I get asked a lot “are you the youth minister?”
- B. God’s Word never delegates the teaching of youth to youth—but to “*older men*” and “*older women*” (Titus 2:1-8).

## **VIII. The Church Foremen/Interior Decorator**

- A. Inevitably, there is work which will need to be done on the physical premises of the building and it is easy to ask the preacher to do it when he is at the building often.
- B. Yet, again, are there not capable and trustworthy men who can make sure they attend to “*the affairs of this life*” so the preacher can do his work (2 Timothy 2:3-4)?

## **IX. The Social Media Liaison**

- A. It is important to get the message out via as many avenues as possible.
- B. Yet, there are surely others who can utilize their skills to help invite, publish and share via social media—maybe even women (Romans 16:1-7).

## **X. The One-Man Pastor**

- A. The work of shepherding and overseeing is a work given to the shepherds/elders of the church (1 Peter 5:2-3; Acts 20:28; cp. Luke 15:3-7).
- B. When the shepherds do their primary work, it makes it easier on the evangelist to do his chief work (Titus 2:15).

Conclusion: The effective preacher must know his priorities. The effective church must know and fill their roles and respect the boundaries God has created so the church can run efficiently (Ephesians 4:11-16). We may be “striving together side by side” but our work may very well be different. Our chief goal and aim may be the same but the roles we play are varied. Good churches are filled with people who recognize their talents, understand their roles and actively fill them. Not everybody on the wall with Nehemiah was working on the same section. Not everybody in “God’s building” is going to do the same job. What’s your role here? How can you help this church be a more efficient organism? I know what my roles are and what they are not and promise you I will do my best to respect this work. What are your roles and will you share in the same commitment to your work with me so we can be the church God calls us to be?

