



Slide #1

The corporate gifts given by God to the church are identified in Ephesians 4:11

Distinctions in Corporate Gifts *Part #1* Identification

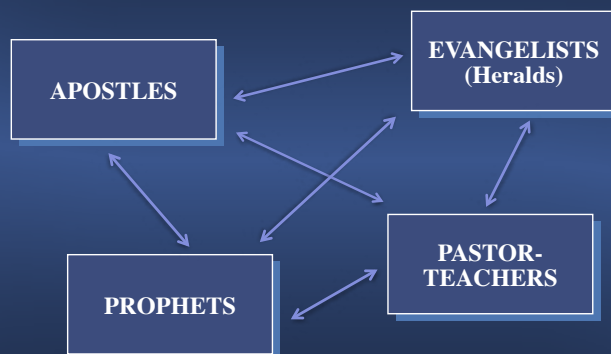
Ken Neff
Director
LeaderQuest

1

Slide #2

The corporate gifts of apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor-teachers are related in their leadership function to establish the church.

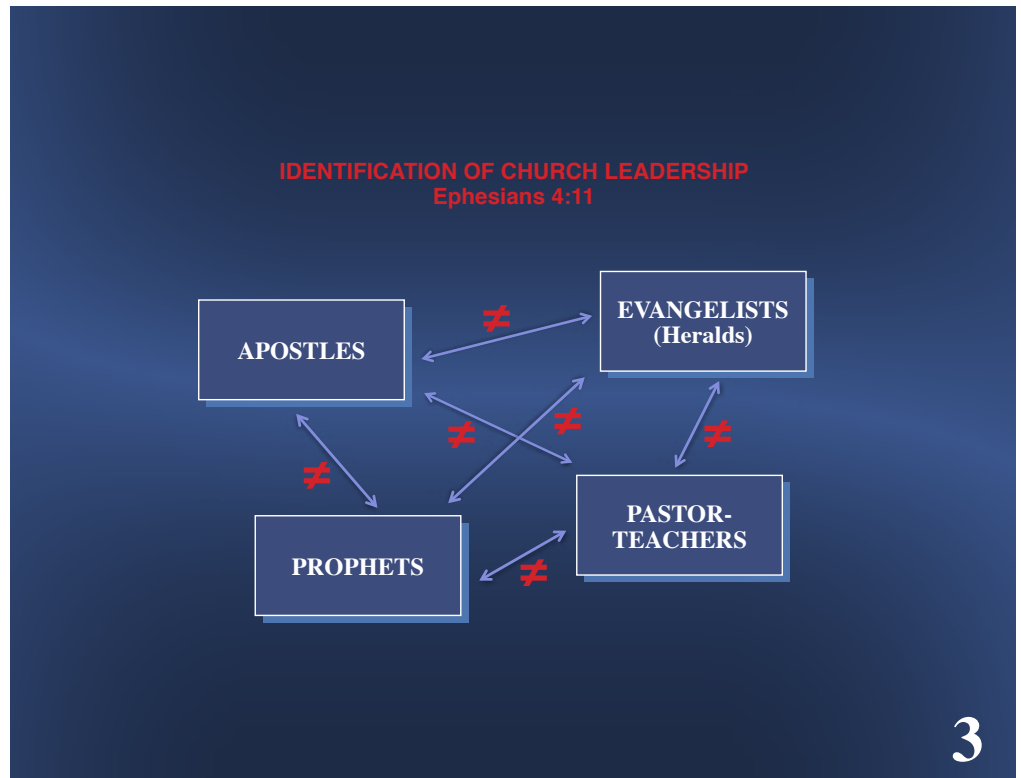
IDENTIFICATION OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP Ephesians 4:11



2

Slide #3

While related, these four gifts are people distinguished from one another by their individual gifts provided through the Spirit. Consequently, they do not necessarily refer the same person. Nevertheless, a person may have multiple gifts. For example, Paul was a herald, an apostle, and a teacher (1 Tim 2:7; 2 Tim 1:11). A study of these gifts clarifies the distinctions between each.



Slide #4

The basic meaning of the term *apostle* is a “sent one,” as a messenger or envoy.¹ The apostles were His appointed companions, “eye-witnesses” of His ministry sent by Christ to proclaim to the world what they had seen and heard and to establish the church (Acts 1:8). Notice the identity of the apostles always differs from the other three corporate gifts.

APOSTLE

Greek:	<i>Apostolos</i> (<i>apo</i> —from; <i>stello</i> —to send)	
Means:	One sent as messenger or envoy (BDAG, 122)	
Identity:	Apostles ≠ Prophets	Rom 1:1-2 1 Cor 12:28 1 Cor 12:29 Eph 2:20 Eph 3:5 Eph 4:11 2 Pet 3:2 Rev 18:20
	Apostles ≠ Evangelists	Eph 4:11
	Apostles ≠ Pastor-Teachers	Eph 4:11

4

Slide #5 & #6

The term *apostle* is used forty times in the Pauline and General Epistles in two distinctive ways, as shown in slides #5 and #6. First, the majority of the occurrences refer to Paul, Peter, or the Eleven, with another five times also referring to the “corporate gift to the church.” On these occasions, the term is used in a *restrictive manner* to identify those men who were *sent by Christ* to be the foundation of the church (Eph 2:20). Thus, the restrictive use of this word refers to an *office* that was filled by those who were selected, appointed, and commissioned by Christ Himself. Acts 1:22 presents recognizable criteria for holding this office. This is in view when the term *apostle* is used in reference to a gift given to the church. The need for this corporate gift ended with the establishment of the early church and the death of Christ’s “eye-witnesses.” [Note: while Paul did not meet all the criteria set forth in Acts 1:22, he was the exception, having seen the resurrected Christ on the Damascus road (Acts 9:5) and claiming equality with the Eleven (1 Cor 9:1, 5b; 2 Cor 12:12).]

The remaining “other people” account for only 15 percent (6 times) of the total forty occurrences: Jesus (Heb 3:1), false apostles (2 Cor 11:13, twice), Epaphroditus (Phil 2:25), Titus (2 Cor 8:23), and Andronicus and Junia (Rom 16:7). In these instances, the term is used in a *general manner* to designate those men who were *sent by a church* to minister for Christ (2 Cor 8:23) or to help meet the needs of individuals in the church (Phil 2:25). [Note: (1) the references to Jesus (Heb 3:1) and the false apostles (2 Cor 11:13) are not germane to this discussion and (2) Barnabas is another example of a person being *sent by a church* to testify of Christ (Acts 13:2; 14:14).] In Ephesians 4:11, the restrictive manner of the term *apostle* is in view.

		WORD		TEXT	CONTEXT				
PASSAGE		1	2		A	B	C	D	E
ROM	1 1	X		Paul...called as an <i>apostle</i> , set apart	X				
	11 13	X		I [Paul] am an <i>apostle</i> of Gentiles	X				
	16 7	X		Who are outstanding among the <i>apostles</i>				X	
1 COR	1 1	X		Paul, called as an <i>apostle</i> of Jesus Christ	X				
	4 9	X		God has exhibited us <i>apostles</i> last of all	X				
	9 1	X		Am I [Paul] not an <i>apostle</i> ?	X				
	2	X		If to others I [Paul] am not an <i>apostle</i>	X				
	5	X		Even as the rest of the <i>apostles</i>	X				
	12 28	X		God appointed in church...first <i>apostles</i>				X	
	29	X		All are not <i>apostles</i> , are they?				X	
	15 7	X		He [Paul] appeared...to all the <i>apostles</i>			X		
	9	X		I [Paul] am the least of the <i>apostles</i>			X		
	9	X		I am...not fit to be called an <i>apostle</i>	X				
2 COR	1 1	X		Paul, an <i>apostle</i> of Christ Jesus	X				
	8 23	X		They are <i>messengers</i> of the churches				X	
	11 5	X		Not...inferior to the most eminent <i>apostles</i>			X		
	13	X	X	For such men are <i>false apostles</i>				X	
	13	X		Disguising themselves as <i>apostles</i>				X	
	12 11	X		Not...inferior to most eminent <i>apostles</i>			X		
	12	X		Signs of a true <i>apostle</i> were performed			X		
	19	1			9	0	5	4	2

1 Apostle	A Paul	C The Eleven
2 False Apostle	B Peter	D Other People
	E Gift to Church	

5

		WORD		TEXT	CONTEXT				
PASSAGE		1	2		A	B	C	D	E
GAL	1 1	X		Paul, an <i>apostle</i>	X				
	17	X		I [Paul] go...to those who were <i>apostles</i>			X		
	19	X		Not see any other <i>apostles</i> except James			X		
EPH	1 1	X		Paul, an <i>apostle</i> of Jesus Christ	X				
	2 20	X		Foundation of the <i>apostles</i> and prophets				X	
	3 5	X		Now...revealed to <i>apostles</i> and prophets				X	
	4 11	X		He gave some as <i>apostles</i>				X	
PHIL	2 25	X		Who is also your <i>messenger</i> and minister				X	
COL	1 1	X		Paul, an <i>apostle</i> of Jesus Christ	X				
1 THE	2 6	X		Even though as <i>apostles</i> of Christ	X				
1 TIM	1 1	X		Paul, an <i>apostle</i> of Jesus Christ	X				
	2 7	X		Appointed a herald and <i>apostle</i> ...teacher	X				
2 TIM	1 1	X		Paul,...an <i>apostle</i> of Jesus Christ	X				
	11	X		Appointed a preacher & <i>apostle</i> & teacher	X				
TITUS	1 1	X		Paul, an <i>apostle</i> of Jesus Christ	X				
HEB	3 1	X		Jesus, the <i>Apostle</i> and High Priest				X	
1 PET	1 1	X		Peter, an <i>apostle</i> of Jesus Christ		X			
2 PET	1 1	X		Peter,...an <i>apostle</i> of Jesus Christ		X			
	3 2	X		Remember...commandment...by <i>apostles</i>			X		
JUDE	17	X		Remember words...spoken...by <i>apostles</i>			X		
	20	0			9	2	4	2	3
TOTAL	39	1			18	2	9	6	5

1 Apostle	A Paul	C The Eleven
2 False Apostle	B Peter	D Other People
	E Gift to Church	

6

Slide #7

A commentator captures the idea of the apostle when he wrote,

An apostle was an official delegate of Jesus Christ, commissioned for the specific tasks of proclaiming authoritatively the message in oral and written form and of establishing . . . churches.²

An **apostle** was an official delegate of Jesus Christ, commissioned for the specific tasks of proclaiming authoritatively the message in oral and written form and of establishing . . . churches.

Harold W. Hoehner

7

Slide #8

Prophets are inspired to proclaim or reveal divine will or purpose.³ The New Testament prophet corresponds to the Old Testament prophet in that both received special, direct revelation from God concerning both predictions about the future and principles for godly living in the present. The message of a New Testament prophet could contain both aspects, as he would speak for God under the influence of the Holy Spirit (e.g., 2 Pet 1:21). The primary responsibility of the prophet in the first century was the establishment of the church's foundation (Eph 2:20). With the canon's completion, "there was no need for further revelation" (e.g., 2 Tim 3:16-17).⁴

The identity of the prophet always differs from the other three corporate gifts. Prophets prophesy, providing new revelation, rather than teach, which is to explain previously provided revelation.

PROPHET

Greek:	<i>Prophetes</i> (<i>pro</i> —before; <i>phemi</i> —to declare)	
Means:	One inspired to proclaim or reveal divine will or purpose (BDAG, 890)	
Identity:	Prophets ≠ Apostles	Rom 1:1-2 1 Cor 12:28 1 Cor 12:29 Eph 2:20 Eph 3:5 Eph 4:11 2 Pet 3:2 Rev 18:20
	Prophets ≠ Evangelists	Eph 4:11
	Prophets ≠ Pastor-Teachers	Eph 4:11
	False Prophets ≠ False Teachers	2 Pet 2:21
	Prophesying ≠ Teaching	1 Cor 14:5-6
	Prophets Prophesy	1 Pet 1:10

8

Slide #9

The term *prophet* is used twenty-two times in the Pauline and General Epistles, referring to imparting divine revelation in the Old and New Testaments or to the corporate gift for the church.

		WORD		TEXT	CONTEXT									
PASSAGE		1	2		A	B	C	D						
ROM	1 2	X		Through His <i>prophets</i> in the...Scriptures	X									
	3 21	X		Witnessed by the Law and the <i>Prophets</i>	X									
	11 3	X		Lord, they have killed Your <i>prophets</i>	X									
1 COR	12 28	X		God appointed...second <i>prophets</i>				X						
	29	X		All are not <i>prophets</i> , are they?				X						
	14 29	X		Let two or three <i>prophets</i> speak		X								
	32	X		The spirit of <i>prophets</i>		X								
	32	X		Are subject to <i>prophets</i>		X								
	37	X		If anyone thinks he is a <i>prophet</i>		X								
EPH	2 20	X		Foundation of the apostles and <i>prophets</i>		X								
	3 5	X		Been revealed by His apostles & <i>prophets</i>		X								
	4 11	X		He gave some...as <i>prophets</i>				X						
1 THE	2 15	X		Who both killed...Jesus & the <i>prophets</i>	X									
TITUS	1 12	X		One of themselves, <i>prophet</i> of their own				X						
HEB	1 1	X		He spoke...to the fathers in the <i>prophets</i>	X									
	11 32	X		Time will fail me if I tell of...the <i>prophets</i>	X									
JAM	5 10	X		<i>Prophets</i> who spoke in name of the Lord	X									
1 PET	1 10	X		The <i>prophets</i> who prophesied of grace	X									
2 PET	2 1	X	X	<i>False prophets</i> also arose among people				X						
	2 16	X		Restrained the madness of the <i>prophet</i>				X						
	3 2	X		Remember words spoken by <i>prophets</i>	X									
1 JN	4 1	X		<i>False prophets</i> have gone out into world				X						
		20	2	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1 Prophet</td> <td>A OT Prophet</td> <td>C False Prophet</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 False Prophet</td> <td>B NT Prophet</td> <td>D Gift to Church</td> </tr> </table>	1 Prophet	A OT Prophet	C False Prophet	2 False Prophet	B NT Prophet	D Gift to Church	9	6	4	3
1 Prophet	A OT Prophet	C False Prophet												
2 False Prophet	B NT Prophet	D Gift to Church												

9

Slide #10

The prophet was one who was endowed by the Holy Spirit with the gift of prophesy for the purposes of edification, comfort, encouragement (1 Cor 14:3,31), and further to understand and communicate the mysteries and revelation of God to the church (12:10; 13:2; 14:23, 30-31).⁵

The **prophet** was one who was endowed by the Holy Spirit with the gift of prophesy for the purposes of edification, comfort, encouragement, and further to understand and communicate the mysteries and revelation of God to the church.

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10

Slide #11

The evangelist (corporate gift) is a messenger of the good news of Jesus Christ.⁶ This term is only used three times in the New Testament (Acts 21:8; Eph 4:11; and 2 Tim 4:5). Philip is the only person designated as an evangelist (Acts 21:8); however, the term *herald* (*kerux*) seems to refer to this same office (1 Tim 2:7; 2 Tim 1:11). In the book of Acts, the ministry of the one who was given this gift was directed toward unbelievers and was itinerant in nature.

The identity of the evangelist always differs from the other three corporate gifts. This will be discussed further. The evangelist may be identified as a herald.

EVANGELIST

Greek: *Euangelistes* (*eu*—well; *angelos*—a messenger)

Means: A messenger of the good news (BDAG, 403)

Identity: Evangelists ≠ Apostles Eph 4:11
 Evangelists ≠ Prophets Eph 4:11
 Evangelists ≠ Pastor-Teachers Eph 4:11

Comment: Philip is the only one identified as an evangelist (Acts 21:8), who both heralded (Acts 8:5) & proclaimed (Acts 8:40)

When those scattered went proclaiming the good news (Acts 8:4), Philip began heralding Christ (Acts 8:5)

11

Slide #12

The term *evangelist* is used three times in the entire New Testament. Only Philip was called an evangelist.

**EVANGELIST
(New Testament)**

PASSAGE	WORD		TEXT	CONTEXT		
	1			A	B	C
ACTS 21 8	X		Entering house of Philip the <i>evangelist</i>	X		
EPH 4 11	X		He gave...some as <i>evangelists</i>			X
2 TIM 4 5	X		Timothy...do the work of an <i>evangelist</i>		X	
		3				

1 Evangelist (euaggelistes) A NT Evangelist
 B Work of Evangelist
 C Gift to Church

12

Slide #13

A herald makes public declarations,⁷ announcing the good news of salvation in Christ. While it is the responsibility of every believer to participate in evangelism, the evangelist/herald had a unique ability in heralding the message of salvation. This is evident when the church, except the apostles, was scattered from Jerusalem (Acts 8:1). Philip, the evangelist (*evangelists*, Acts 21:8), heralded (*kerusso*) Christ (Acts 8:5), but the rest of the church declared (*evangelizo*) the word (Acts 8:4). Notice also that Paul encouraged Timothy, who was to “herald (*kerusso*) the word” (2 Tim 4:2), to “do the work of an evangelist” (*evangelists*, 2 Tim 4:5). These texts provide support for equating herald with evangelist as the corporate gift to the church.

The identity of the herald differs from the gifts of the apostles and pastor-teachers based on Paul being a “herald, apostle, and teacher” (1 Tim 2:7; 2 Tim 1:11).

Slide #14

The term *herald* is used only three times in the New Testament: twice in reference to Paul and once to Noah.

HERALD

Greek: *Kerux*

Means: One who makes public declarations (BDAG, 543)

Identity: Heralds ≠ Apostles 1 Tim 2:7
2 Tim 1:11

Heralds ≠ Pastor-Teachers Eph 4:11
2 Tim 1:11

Comment: Paul a herald, apostle, & teacher (1 Tim 2:7 & 2 Tim 1:11) heralded (Gal 2:2) & proclaimed (Eph 3:8)

When those scattered went proclaiming the good news (Acts 8:4), Philip, the evangelist, began heralding Christ (Acts 8:5)

Timothy was to "herald the word" (2 Tim 4:2); possibly referring to him "doing the work of an evangelist" (2 Tim 4:5)

13

**HERALD
(New Testament)**

PASSAGE	WORD		TEXT	CONTEXT	
	1			A	B
1 TIM 2 7	X		Appointed a <i>preacher</i> ...apostle, as teacher	X	
2 TIM 1 11	X		Appointed a <i>preacher</i> ...apostle & teacher	X	
2 PET 2 5	X		Noah, a <i>preacher</i> of righteousness		X
		3		2	1

1 Herald A Paul
(kerux) B Noah

14

Slide #15

[The herald's/evangelist's] function resembles modern missionaries who bring the message to new territories.⁸

Slide #16

The grammatical structure in Ephesians 4:11 indicates that the pastor-teacher gift is one person with two different gifts: shepherding and teaching.⁹ [Note: "By the time Ephesians was written, the term 'pastor' was not an established title."¹⁰] A shepherd is "one who tends flocks (not merely one who feeds them)" and "is used metaphorically of Christian 'pastors.'"¹¹ The term *shepherd* is used only three times in the Pauline and General Epistles, twice in reference to Christ and one time in Ephesians 4:11 of the corporate gift for the church. The responsibilities of those who hold this office are leading, feeding, and

protecting the church. The term *lead* (*proistemi*, Rom 12:8) is the spiritual gift associated with shepherding, meaning "to stand before," and is the portrait a shepherd guiding and caring for the sheep.¹² In fact, this term *lead* is used only eight times in the New Testament and in five of those instances refers to the function of those who lead the church (1 Thess 5:12; 1 Tim 3:4; 5:12, 17).

Not only is the corporate gift to lead the church, but also to teach. In eleven times used in the Pauline Epistles, the term *teacher* refers to the corporate gift five times and the "ability to teach" twice. [Note: the term *skilled in teaching* (*kalodidaskalos*) denotes an "ability to teach," not merely being "teachable."¹³] Teaching is the ability to communicate the truth of the Scriptures in a manner that brings clarification or conviction.

In the New Testament, teaching involves both instructing and modeling the Word of God (1 Cor 4:16; Phil 3:17; 4:9). The term is used in two distinctive ways in the New Testament. First, it is used in a *restrictive manner* in reference to those who were responsible to teach in order to equip the body (Eph 4:11; James 3:1; 2 Tim 1:11). Second, the term is used in a *general manner* to address the responsibility of every believer (Matt 28:20; Heb 5:12) to teach those further behind them in their pilgrimage, at least in the foundational teachings of the Word (Heb 6:1-2). Obviously, the *restrictive manner* relates to the context of the shepherd-teacher gift.

The particular combination of words and their relationship to the function of the shepherd-teacher gift indicates an emphasis on the leading and teaching responsibilities.

[The **herald's/evangelist's**] function resembles modern missionaries who bring the message to new territories.

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15

SHEPHERD
(Pauline & General Epistles)

- Greek:** *Poimen*
- Means:** One who tends flocks (not merely one who feeds them) is used metaphorically of Christian "pastors" (Vine's, 839)
- Comment:** Term used only 3 times; 2 times referring to Christ (Heb 13:20 & 1 Pet 2:25) and 1 time in reference to the corporate gift of shepherd-teachers (Eph 4:11)

TEACHER
(Pauline Epistles)

- Greek:** *Didaskalos*
- Means:** One who teaches
- Identity:** False Teachers ≠ False Prophets 2 Pet 2:21
Teaching ≠ Prophesying 1 Cor 14:5-6
Teachers teach Heb 5:12

16

Slide #17

The term *shepherd* is used only three times in the Pauline and General Epistles and only once in reference to corporate gift for the church. On the other hand, the term teacher occurs eleven times and in the majority of those times it refers to the corporate gift.

SHEPHERD (Pauline & General Epistles)									
PASSAGE	WORD				TEXT	CONTEXT			
	1					A	B		
EPH 4 11	X				He gave...some as <i>pastors</i> and teachers		X		
HEB 13 20	X				Great <i>Shepherd</i> of the sheep	X			
1 PET 2 25	X				<i>Shepherd</i> and Guardian of your souls	X			
		3						2	1
					1 Shepherd	A Jesus Christ B Gift to Church			

TEACHER (Pauline Epistles)									
PASSAGE	WORD				TEXT	CONTEXT			
	1	2	3	4		A	B	C	
ROM 2 20	X				A <i>teacher</i> of the immature				X
1 COR 12 28	X				God appointed apostles, prophets, <i>teachers</i>	X			
		29				All are not <i>teachers</i> , are they?	X		
EPH 4 11	X				He gave...some as <i>pastors</i> and <i>teachers</i>				X
1 TIM 1 7		X				Wanting to be <i>teachers of the Law</i>			X
		2	7				[Paul] appointed...as a <i>teacher</i> of the Gentiles	X	
		3	2				An overseer, then, must be... <i>able to teach</i>		X
2 TIM 1 11	X				[Paul] appointed preacher... <i>apostle and teacher</i>	X			
		2	24				Bond-servant...be kind to all, <i>able to teach</i>		X
		4	3				<i>Teachers</i> in accordance to their own desires		X
TITUS 2 3			X				Older women... <i>teaching what is good</i>		X
					7	1	1	2	
									5 2 4

1 Teacher	<i>didaskalos</i>	(n)	A Gift to the Church
2 Teacher of the Law	<i>nomodidaskalos</i>	(n)	B Skilled Teacher
3 Teacher of Good Things	<i>kalodidaskalos</i>	(n)	C Teacher of Law, etc.
4 Skilled in Teaching	<i>kalodidaskalos</i>	(adj)	

17

Slide #18

Shepherding includes instruction but probably is mostly concerned with administration and various ministries to the flock. Teaching includes instruction in doctrine and its application to daily life.¹⁴

Shepherding includes instruction but probably is mostly concerned with administration and various ministries to the flock. **Teaching** includes instruction in doctrine and its application to daily life.

Harold W. Hoehner

18

Slide #19

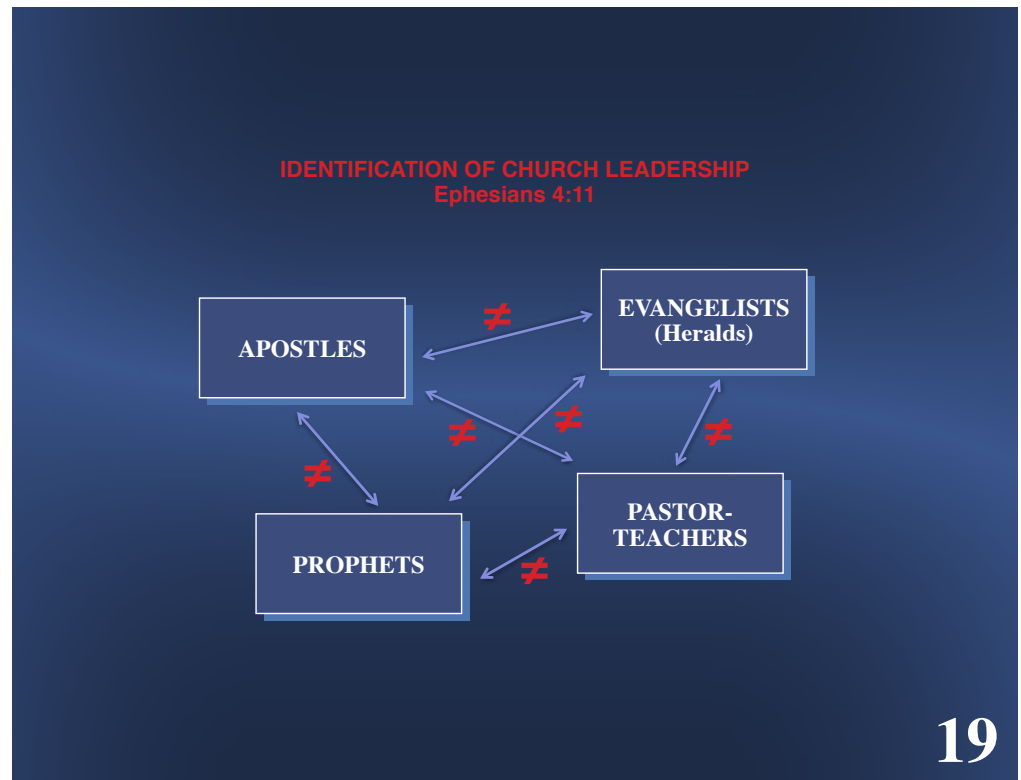
While the four corporate gifts to the church are related, the emphasis of each differs:

Apostles—as the “eye-witnesses of Christ” (Acts 1:8), proclaimed the message of Christ in oral and written form and established the church.

Prophets—communicated divine revelation necessary for godly living.

Evangelists—heralded the message of salvation in Christ to unbelievers in an itinerant manner.

Pastor-Teachers—shepherded the established churches, instructing and modeling the principles found in the revealed revelation from both the apostles and prophets.



Endnotes:

1. Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, rev. and ed. by Frederick William Danker, third edition, BDAG (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 122.
2. Harold W. Hoehner, *Ephesians* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 399-00.
3. BDAG, 890.
4. Hoehner, 546.
5. *Ibid.*, 542.
6. BDAG, 403.
7. *Ibid.*, 543.
8. Hoehner, 543.
9. *Ibid.*, 544.
10. *Ibid.*
11. W. E. Vine, *The Expanded Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1984), 839.
12. Gerhard Kittel, ed., *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, Vol. IV (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1968), 702.
13. BDAG, 240.
14. Hoehner, 545.