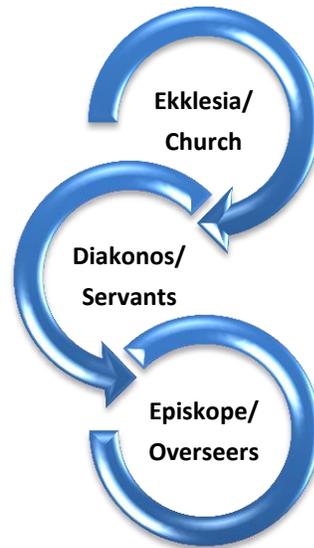


# New Covenant Local Ekklesia (Church) Structure



**Ekklesia (church):** The ekklesia is the local expression of the body of Christ that is saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus for good works (Eph 2:8-10). The Apostolic model is for the local ekklesia to assemble together in private homes for the two primary functions of koinonia and to disciple. The Elect Disciples are the ekklesia and called brethren, saints, sheep, the faithful, believers, the way and Christians in Scripture. All ekklesia is all the following:

- The Elect (Eklektos)
- Disciple (Mathetes)
- Brethren (Adelphos & Adelphe)
- Saint (Hagios)
- Christian
- Flock-Sheep
- Faithful-Believers
- The Way

**Diakonos (servant):** God grants to each of the ekklesia gifts (charisma) in accordance to God's grace and purpose to accomplish and perform specific services as diakonos for the local ekklesia. Diakonos has been translated deacon in six of 31 passages but deacon is not to be understood as a singular office in the church but as qualifications for the multiple God ordained servant offices of the ekklesia. Jesus is diakonos (Mt 20:28); the Apostles are diakonos (1Cor 3:5) as are all offices in the church. God gifts the ekklesia all that is needed to be a God ordained servant/diakonos. God's gifts are *genuine* gifts that are proofed and tested for meeting all biblical qualifications and standards. Genuine gifts will stand under biblical scrutiny (1Cor 3:13). For example, the gift of teaching means one has received from God the skill-set to teach; the tongues gift is a divine utterance of a human language not previously known or taught to the recipient; the gift of healing a true disease or malady that it is miraculously and permanently removed. Here is a partial listing of servant offices and gifts to fulfill an office as diakonos.

- Evangelist
- Preacher/Teacher
- Minister/Shepherd
- Elder/Steward
- Word of Wisdom
- Teaching
- Exhortation
- Mercy
- Word of Knowledge
- Discerning of Spirits
- Helps
- Leadership

**Episkope (overseer):** God may ordain certain diakonos to serve as an Episkope, or overseer. An episkope is an elder not merely for a single house church but for all the house churches in a given region. Qualifications to serve in each position must meet Scriptural standards in addition to gifts. Biblical qualifications for the office of apostle are contemporaneously improbable. Episkope offices include:

- Elder (Presbuteros)
- Shepherd (Poimen)
- Steward (Oikonomos)