

NAME _____
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EPHESIANS 4:11-13 *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; Vs.12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Vs.13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”*

1 CORINTHIANS 12:28 *“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.”*

God Gave and God Set

These ministry offices and gifts are given and set in the church by the Lord.

Question: Are they still for today?

Answer: Do people still need a miracle? a healing? helps? etc.

Question: Are there still Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers today?

Answer: In the above scripture, why were they given?

1. For the perfecting of the saints.
2. For the work of the ministry.
3. For the edifying of the body of Christ. (church)

Question: For how long were the five-fold ministry gifts given?

Answer: 1. Until we all come into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God.

2. Unto a perfect man, unto the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Has the church come into unity yet? Is the church perfected yet? Is the church presenting the fullness of Christ? Does the church still need edifying?

Anyone that is familiar with the church must realize that these gifts and callings are still needed today.

Each office of the five-fold ministry; **Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher**, carries its own distinct anointing and has its own individual work. For these offices to work together and accomplish the building up of the body of Christ; they must recognize their differences and be yielded and submitted to one another. Each of these offices are directly responsible to the Lord Jesus Christ and are directed by the Holy Spirit, to the work of service.

Directed by the Holy Ghost

ACTS 8:5 *“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.”*

ACTS 8:26-40 *“And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. Vs.29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, go near, and join thyself to this chariot.”*

ACTS 10:19-20 *“While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.”*

ACTS 16:6-10 *“Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia.”*

Each member of the five-fold ministry must Recognize its limitations

ACTS 8:14-17 *“ Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.”*

Why didn't Philip pray and lay his hands on them, that they might get the Holy Ghost?

1 CORINTHIANS 12:29-30 *“Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Do all have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?”*

No one person has it all, gifts, callings, etc. We must recognize our individual gifts and that of others. We need each other and should be willing to yield.

One of the most fascinating things concerning the ministry gifts of Christ is their variety. One ministry gift office alone cannot hope to effectively be able to minister to all the needs of the entire Body of Christ. Teachers can sometimes think evangelists are too flamboyant and sensational. Evangelists can sometimes think teachers are dry and dogmatic. Evangelists and teachers often agree saying that prophets can sometimes be intense and extreme. There can be extremes, but we cannot repress the gifts of God. It is God's divine plan that each ministry gift provides a check and balance to correct and complement the other.

1. **Apostles.** The Apostle above all is to inspire and lead the way for gaining ground by establishing new works for the Lord. The Apostle's office seems to embrace almost every type of ministry.
2. **Prophets.** The Prophet is to inspire the teacher. The Prophet's ministry is inspirational. He speaks by direct, divine inspiration and revelation.
3. **Evangelists.** The evangelist is to continually remind us of the lost and dying world and its need for the gospel. The evangelist has a direct endowment from the Lord to PREACH the Word for the salvation of souls.
4. **Pastors.** The Pastor is to demonstrate to us that souls still need much nurturing and care after they have been won to the Lord. Pastors are the shepherds of God's sheep.
5. **Teachers.** The teacher is to steady the prophet. Those who fill the office of teacher teach the Word, not by natural ability, but by the divine ability of the Holy Spirit.

APOSTLES

The word Apostle means one sent forth, a sent one. Missionaries are sent. The Greek word Apostolos translated means one sent forth, a sent one. Jesus Christ is the greatest example of a sent one. **John 20:21**. A true apostle is always one with a commission – not one who merely goes, but one who is sent by the Holy Spirit. In **Acts 13** it gives a picture of the sending forth of Barnabas and Paul to be apostles to the gentiles.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:28 ***“And God hath set some in the church, first Apostles...”***

EPHESIANS 4:11 ***“and He Gave some, Apostles...”***

ACTS 13:2-3 ***“As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, ‘Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.’ ³ And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.”***

An Apostle is one who establishes churches. **A true Apostle will have the other ministry offices residing in his call**, such as Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, And Teacher. These different ministry gifts are needed in establishing churches.

A. Signs of an Apostle

2 CORINTHIANS 12:12 *“Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.”* In defending his apostleship in **1 Corinthians 9:1** Paul says, *“are not ye my work in the Lord?”*

1. Sufferings

2 Corinthians 11:23-29 *“²³Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. ²⁴Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. ²⁵Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; ²⁷In weariness and painfulness, in watchings, often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. ²⁸Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. ²⁹Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?”*

2. Least of All

1 Corinthians 4:9-13 *“⁹For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. ¹⁰We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honorable, but we are despised. ¹¹Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place; ¹²And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: ¹³Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.*

Matthew 23:11 *“But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.”*

Luke 12:48 *“...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required..”*

3. Holy Ghost Power

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 *“**4**And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power: **5**That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”*

Acts 19:11-12 *“**11**And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: **12**So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.”*

Romans 15:19 *“Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.”*

4. Preach in faraway Places – A Missionary

Roman 15:20 *“Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:”*

A missionary who is really called of God and is sent by the Holy Ghost is an apostle.

- A. Acts 13:2, 4 The Holy Spirit said, *“**2**Separate Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.” “**4**So they, being SENT FORTH by the Holy Ghost, departed”*. Paul and Barnabas were sent ones. Sent on missionary journeys.
- B. The missionary (Apostle) will have the ability of all the ministry gifts.
 - 1. They will do the work of the Evangelist
They will get people saved.
 - 2. They will do the work of the teacher.
They will teach and establish people
 - 3. He will do the work of the pastor.
 - 4. He will pastor and shepherd the people for a while.

Please note that Paul said *he never built on a foundation someone else had laid*. He endeavored to preach the gospel where Christ was not named. (Romans 15:20) He usually stayed in a place six months to three years.

5. SPIRITUAL FATHER/MOTHER

- A. Paul's apostolic office did not give him the authority to tell people and churches what to do in every area of life. Yet some of the so-called "apostles" of today try to run every aspect of the local church, including people's personal lives.
- B. Paul did not command the churches he wrote to. He was not a dictator over them. He addressed them in fatherly tones of genuine care and concern: in **II Cor. 10:1** he says, *"Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ..."*
- C. Paul's apostolic care and concern for the churches is made even more clear in the Amplified Bible.

I Thessalonians 2:7, 11 *"But we behaved gently when we were among you, LIKE A DEVOTED MOTHER NURSING AND CHERISHING HER OWN CHILDREN... 11LIKE A father [dealing with his children], we used to exhort each of you personally, stimulating and encouraging and charging you.*

6. TEACHER/PREACHER

An apostle is **first and foremost** a preacher or a teacher, or a preacher and a teacher of the Word.

I Timothy 2:7 says, *"Whereunto I am ordained a PREACHER, and an APOSTLE, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a TEACHER of the Gentiles in faith and verity."*

II Timothy 1:11 says, *"Whereunto I am appointed a PREACHER, AND AN apostle, and a TEACHER of the Gentiles."*

A. To stand in this office (Apostle) one must have a deep personal encounter with the Lord and an ongoing spiritually strong relationship with Him and His word – something beyond the ordinary

1. Paul defends his apostleship in **I Cor. 9:1** (have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord?) Paul had a deep spiritual experience with the Lord. Even his conversation was beyond ordinary (**Acts 9:3-6; I Cor. 11:23**) Paul received this information by revelation, which Jesus gave him.

2. Paul was not taught the gospel he preached by man. The Spirit of God taught it to him. (Gal. 1:11, 12) Proof of his deep experience with the Lord is found in Gal. 1:13-17. Paul received his revelation while he was in Arabia. He did not receive it from man. He received it from God.
(Gal. 1:18, 19, 21-24) In Galatians 2:1,2 it shows us that Paul had been preaching for 14 years after his time in Arabia before he went to Jerusalem. He was with Peter for only two weeks. He did not receive any of his instruction from the other “Apostles” or leaders of the Church.
3. An Apostle’s ministry seems to embrace all other ministry gifts. The distinguishing difference is the ability to establish churches.
 - a. This would include all five of the five-fold ministry offices including pastoral leadership.
 - b. After establishing churches apostles may exercise oversight over the churches that they have established THEMSELVES until those churches are adequately established with spiritual authority of their own.

THERE ARE FOUR CLASSES OF APOSTLES

1. **Jesus the Chief Apostle.** He stands in a class by Himself.
2. **Apostles of the lamb.** These were the twelve apostles who were eyewitnesses of Jesus’ life, ministry, death, burial, and resurrection. (Acts 1:21,22) This was their purpose – to witness Jesus’ earthly ministry and to give testimony of His ministry to the world. No one, not even Paul, could be an apostle in the sense of the original twelve. There are only twelve apostles of the Lamb (Rev. 21:14)
3. **New Testament Apostles.** This includes Paul, Barnabas, and the other apostles of the New Testament. In addition to calling Jesus Christ an Apostle, and the twelve apostles of the Lamb, the New Testament calls several other Apostles.
 - a. Barnabas and Paul (Acts 14:14)
 - b. James, the Lord’s brother (Gal. 1:19)
 - c. Andronicus and Junia (Romans 16:7)

- d. Silvanus and Timotheus (I Thess. 1:1;)
- e. Apollos (I Cor. 4:4-9)
- f. Two unnamed brethren (II Cor. 8:23) (messenger translates apostle)
- g. Epaphroditus (Phil. 2:25)

4. **Apostles of today.** There are no apostles today in the three classes listed above. There are no foundation-laying apostles today. If the foundation was not laid by the apostles of the New Testament and we need modern-day apostles to do it, then we need a new cornerstone as well, and that is foolish. The work of the apostle today is to found and establish individual local churches through the world; to go into new territory and pioneer churches where there are no churches.

What marks do we look for in an apostle today?

1. First and foremost a preacher or a teacher of the Word.
2. Outstanding spiritual gifts
3. Deep personal experiences with the Lord
4. Power and ability to establish churches or ministries
5. Able to provide adequate spiritual leadership.

If God did not call you to be an apostle don't worry about it! Do not get caught up with names and titles. Prepare yourself through studying the word and let God put you where He wants to!