

## **The Fivefold Ministry – Apostles**

### **The original 12**

Luke 6:13

And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles...

### **The word “apostle” meaning**

### **Apostles faded away**

### **Apostles wrote Scripture**

### **The church founded upon the apostles (and prophets)**

Ephesians 2:20

### **Apostles as superhuman**

### **When apostles speak, everyone jumps**

Acts 15

### **The original 12 are unique**

Revelation 21:14

And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

### **There were others besides the 12**

**Matthias** – Acts 1:21-26

**Paul**

**Barnabas** – Acts 14:4,14

But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles... But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out,

**James** – Galatians 1:19; 1 Corinthians 15:7

**Apollos** – 1 Corinthians 4:6-13

<sup>6</sup> Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, “Do not go beyond what is written.” Then you will not be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other. <sup>7</sup> For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not? <sup>8</sup> Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have begun to reign—and that without us! How I wish that you really had begun to reign so that we also might reign with you! <sup>9</sup> For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like those condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to human beings. <sup>10</sup> We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored! <sup>11</sup> To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. <sup>12</sup> We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; <sup>13</sup> when we are slandered, we answer kindly. We have become the scum of the earth, the garbage of the world—right up to this moment.

**Epaphroditus** – Philippians 2:25

But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs.

**Timothy**

**Silas** – 1 Thessalonians 2:6

<sup>3</sup> For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, <sup>4</sup> but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup> For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. <sup>6</sup> Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ.

#### **Andronicus and Junia – Romans 16:7**

Greet Andronicus and Junia (or Junias), my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles (“who are of note among the apostles”), and they were in Christ before me.

#### **Unnamed Apostles – 2 Corinthians 8:18,22-23**

<sup>18</sup> And we are sending along with him the brother who is praised by all the churches for his service to the gospel. <sup>22</sup> In addition, we are sending with them our brother who has often proved to us in many ways that he is zealous, and now even more so because of his great confidence in you. <sup>23</sup> As for Titus, he is my partner and co-worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honor to Christ.

#### **False apostles**

Matthew 7:15

Beware of false prophets...

1 John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Revelation 2:2

“I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.

2 Corinthians 11:13

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

#### **Until...**

Ephesians 4:11

#### **Ephesians 2:20**

#### **Apostles, Prophets, Teachers**

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

#### **Built on regional, relational authority, united to the Word of the Lord**

1 Timothy 1:18,19

1 Corinthians 9:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? <sup>2</sup> If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 4:14-16

<sup>14</sup> I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. <sup>15</sup> For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>16</sup> I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

#### **The witness of the body**