



# Apostleship: An Office and a Gift

And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, (12) to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

# Apostle—definition:

- *Apostolos: sent one; messenger*

Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession

# Characteristics of the Office of Apostleship

- Men personally selected by Jesus
- Personal witnesses of Jesus' ministry
- Given authority to lead the church and to write binding doctrine
- Considered the foundation of the church, upon which we continue to build

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

## 1 Corinthians 15:8–9 (ESV)

Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me. (9) For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works.

built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone

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But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, (15)“Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

Greet Andronicus and Junias, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are outstanding among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

I have thought it necessary to send to you  
Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow  
soldier, and your messenger...

As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.

# Characteristics of the Gift of Apostleship

- An eager messenger of the Gospel/biblical truth
- Senses 'static Christianity' or 'lack of desire' for Jesus and pursues a remedy
- Entrepreneurial; starts something new, builds capable leaders, then moves on
- Oftentimes recognized by leadership, then sent

# Characteristics of the Gift of Apostleship

- Especially able to embrace trials and walk by faith
- Is especially sensitive to sanctified living: desirous of true 'fruit production'

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.