

The 5-Fold Ministry
Week 2
The Apostle

Ephesians 4:11 AMPC - *“And His gifts were [varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us] some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders), some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, traveling missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers.”*

We need to understand that each one of these are important to the body of Christ. These 5 ministry offices work together, not against each other. They complement each one another.

They are all *“for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,”* - Ephesians 4:12 NKJV

God-Assembled Workforce:

Apostles — The Builders

Prophets — The Building Inspectors

Evangelists — The Stone Gatherers

Pastors — The Shepherds and Craftsmen

Teachers — The Instructors

2 Corinthians 11:13 NKJV — *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.”*

apóstolos - a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders

This is a compound Greek word. Apo means away, stello means to send. If you put these together, you have one who is sent away.

Before the NT was written, the Greek speaking people were already familiar with the word Apostolos (apostle). This word had been used to describe the following:

1. The admiral of a fleet of cargo ships that traveled with him, with specialized crew who accompanied and assisted the admiral as he set out to locate territories where civilization was nonexistent. Then he would construct a replica of their own life, language, and culture there. (Like a colonist) These leaders had everything they needed, supplies, people, and abilities to build houses roads and establish the new culture there in virgin territory.
2. A package, travel documents, or a passport. These travel documents gave a person the right to come and go, move freely from one place to another.

2 Corinthians 2:12 say *“Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ’s gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord,”*

3. A special package or a special messenger. The apostle has supernatural insights and revelation from God that is vital for establishment and growth.

Galatians 1:11-12 *But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

4. Ambassador

When the earlier readers of the NT heard them use the word apostolos, this was their understanding of the word.

What is an apostle?

An apostle is a person anointed by God and sent out with other people to establish the Kingdom of God in areas where it hasn’t been established. This would include planting churches and starting other ministries. They are anointed to do this, equip and train others to help them.

An apostle carries an important package that is important to arrive at its destination. They are anointed to do this. They carry an anointing to do whatever is necessary when they show up.

There are 4 different classes of Apostle:

1. **Jesus Christ himself - Hebrews 3:1 NKJV** - *“Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,”*

Jesus is in a class all by Himself. He sat in all 5 offices and had the spirit without measure. (John 3:34) Jesus was sent by God and anointed in all 5 offices, including apostle.

2. **Apostles of the Lamb** - (Jesus 12 apostles) - They are in a class by themselves because they were eyewitnesses to the resurrection of Jesus. They not only walked the earth with Him, but they physically saw Him resurrected!!! Acts 1:15-22. There were foundational apostles because they laid the foundation, wrote the Gospels.

Revelation 21:14 NKJV - *Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

3. Other Foundational Apostles - These apostles helped to lay the foundation of the New Testament.

Paul introduced himself as such in many of his writings.

Romans 1:1 NKJV - "*Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God*"

Paul was a foundational apostle because he helped lay the foundation of the scriptures, and the church itself. He wrote a majority of the New Testament.

Ephesians 2:19-20 NKJV - "*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,***"

Jesus is the chief cornerstone.

The apostles and prophets laid a foundation on top of that. And we build on top of that foundation.

There is no new building. There is no new foundation.

There is no new foundation being laid by any modern-day apostle or anyone else. Jesus is the cornerstone, the apostles built on that foundation, and that's the foundation we stand on.

5. Modern Day Apostles - (all other apostles)

Some apostles are known as missionaries or even Pastors.

What helps us identify an apostle?

II Corinthians 12:12 NKJV - "*Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.*"

What fruit do you see in an apostle's life? They will be able to teach, be a sent one, start multiple works and ministries, churches.

Apostles operate in spiritual gifts as noted here, signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

Sign - a mark or a token by which God authenticates the men sent by him, someone who is sent by God and they are anointed. There will be a mark or a sign on their life.

Wonders – Miracles- Something extraordinary that produces amazement and wonder.

Mighty deeds - dunamus!!!!

1 Corinthians 2: 4-5 *4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

1 Corinthians 9:1 NKJV - *“Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?”*

1 Corinthians 9:2 NKJV- *If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.*

Perseverance. Apostles are patient. They have a supernatural ability to hang in there regardless of fierce opposition. These works are not started over night, just like a city is not built overnight.

2 Corinthians 12:12 NKJV- *Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.*

1 Corinthians 16:9 NKJV - *“For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”*

There will be fruit in their life, the people whose lives are changed by the ministry and work that apostle helped to establish.

Titus 1:5 NKJV — *“For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you.”*

Other apostles in the NT.

Paul (Romans 1:1, 1 Corinthians 1:1)

Barnabas (Acts 14:14)

Apollos (1 Corinthians 4:6-13)

Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25)

Andronicus (Romans 16:7)

Junia (Romans 16:7)

Titus (2 Corinthians 8:23)

Timothy (1 Thessalonians 1:1)

Silvanus (1 Thessalonians 2:6)

James (Galatians 1:19)

Ephesians 4:13 NLT - *“This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.”*

Apostles and the entire 5-fold ministry have always been a part of the church, and they will always be until we reach the fullness of Christ.