

DO WE HAVE APOSTLES TODAY?

4 Scriptural Reasons Why We Believe Apostles Are Not for Today

1. Specific Characteristics of Apostles Are Not Repeatable _____

a. The Apostles Were Personally _____ by Jesus

Mark 3:14 Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach,

Luke 6:13 And when it was day, He called His disciples to *Himself*; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:

Acts 1:2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen,

Gal 1:1 Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead),

b. The Apostles Were Personally _____ by Jesus

1 Cor 9:1 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?

c. The Apostles Were Personally _____ by Jesus

Mark 3:14 Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach,

Gal 1:15-18 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called *me* through His grace,¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those *who were* apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

2 Cor 12:1-7 It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord:² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago-- whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.³ And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—⁴ how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. ...⁷ And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

2. The Apostles Were Given as the _____ of the Church

a. To Be the Once-Laid _____ on Which the Church Would Be Built

Eph. 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*,

b. To Be the Primary Channel for Relaying God's _____

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Eph 3:5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

2 Peter 3:2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

Jude 1:17 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ:

c. To _____ the Truth at the Beginning of the Church

Acts 15:6 Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter.

Acts 16:4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem.

3. There Appears to Be a Fixed Number of _____ Apostles

a. Jesus Appointed Only _____ Throughout His Time on Earth

Mark 3:14 Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach,

b. There Are a Specific Number of _____ Apostles in Revelation

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

4. The Gifts Associated with Apostles Have _____

a. The _____ of the Revelation and Sign Gifts

Acts 2:43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

Acts 5:12a And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people.

2 Cor 12:11b-12 for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing.¹² Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

b. The _____ of the Revelation and Sign Gifts

1 Cor 13:8-10 Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away.⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part.¹⁰ But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.