

Apostles and the Church

The office of Apostle is the highest office in the church. Apostleship is the special ability that God grants selected men of the body of Christ that enables them to go out and create disciples by establishing or planting local fellowships, to exercise godly leadership in spiritual matters over local churches, and to possess the ability to perform signs, wonders and miracles in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Apostles were hand-picked by Jesus or are appointed by the apostles that were hand-picked by Jesus to become an apostle and had to be an *eye witness* to the resurrected Jesus

Acts 1: 22

beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us — **one of these [must] become a witness with us of His resurrection."**

1 Corinthians 9:1-2

¶ Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? **Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?** Are you not my work in the Lord? 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.

These verses of Scripture are highly significant for being an eye witness to the resurrected Jesus is an immutable qualification for being an Apostle. The apostle Paul was under constant attack by those outside the body of Christ and also from those who were of the ekklesia (church) in Judea. It appears that some never forgave or trusted Paul as an apostle due to his persecution of the ekklesia prior to his conversion. He was constantly being accused of not being a true apostle for he was not selected or sent directly by the apostles. We see evidences of this in Scripture when Paul presents his proofs to answer those who were troubling the local churches by challenging his authority and qualifications to be an apostle. He presents testimony that he did in-fact see and speak with the post-resurrected Jesus and he meets the apostolic qualification identified in Acts 1:22 as being an eye-witness to the resurrected Jesus. Luke further records in Acts 8 the events surrounding the conversion of Paul and how he was hand-picked by Messiah Jesus with confirmations by other trusted witnesses who are known by the ekklesia and are themselves saints. There is no question that Luke was inspired by God through the Holy Spirit to document these validating events to silence those who challenged Paul and his divine appointment by God.

Acts 9:26-27

When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took hold of him and **brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.**

This is an absolute requirement back then, and still remains an absolute requirement now for holding the office of apostle. Paul was required to meet this test and so do all who claim to hold this office.

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Other qualifications for the office of apostle include signs, wonders and miracles for all these are to be a test or sign of a true apostle of Jesus Christ. *Every* apostle is gifted by God to perform these miraculous signs. Jesus Himself established this as a test qualification for the office of apostle and the apostles determined to use this as a standard for apostolic qualification.

Matthew 10:1

¶ Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and **gave them authority over unclean spirits**, to cast them out, and to **heal every kind of disease** and **every kind of sickness**.

Acts 2:43

Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many **wonders** and **signs** were taking place through the apostles.

However, not all who were gifted by God to perform signs and miracles are apostles. An example of this is with Stephen who was not an apostle but did perform great wonders and signs (Acts 6:8).

The apostle Paul confirms this standard that all apostles are granted by God with the authority to perform great signs and wonders like raising the dead, healing the sick, the deformed and those who are demon possessed.

2 Corinthians 12:12

The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by **signs** and **wonders** and **miracles**.

These standards as established by Jesus and all his apostles have not changed and for anyone claiming such a lofty title for themselves are to be tested by the ekklesia and the episkope for meeting these qualifications in addition to those listed in 1 Timothy three. Since these qualifications are highly improbable today it appears those claiming that title must pass these evidentiary tests or be labeled false apostles as were those who were trying to confound the early ekklesia.

2 Corinthians 11:13

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

Those attacks have never ceased. In terms of making disciples as commanded by Jesus to His apostles as recorded in Matthew 28:18-20, discipling is performed by missionaries, planters, teachers and preachers in the local ekklesia. The term missionary appears nowhere in Scripture. This is a term created much later and used as the term for sending selected men to make disciples in distant lands much like what the Apostle Paul did. The missions today are based upon the call of Paul to proclaim the gospel and make disciples of the Jews of the dispersion and to the Gentiles living in the dispersed lands for Paul began his preaching by going into synagogues to proclaim

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Salvation in the resurrected Jesus to both Jew and proselyte (a non-Jew or Gentile newly brought into Judaism). An apostle and missionary are not biblically compatible terms.

The Apostles

The Original 12: (Matthew 4:18-22,10:2-4; Mark 3:13-19, Luke 6: 12-16)

Also referred to in Scripture as "**The Twelve**" (Matthew 10:1, 5; 11:1; 19:28; 20:17; 26:14, 20, 27; Mark 3:14,16; 4:10; 6:7; 9:35; 10:32; 11:11; 14:10,17,20,43; Luke 8:1; 9:1,12; 18:31; 22:3, 47; John 6:67,70-71; 20:24; Acts 6:2; 1 Corinthians 15:5)

1. Simon, who is called Peter, Cephas, Bar-jona
2. Andrew, Peter's brother, Andrew the less
3. James, the son of Zebedee
4. John, the son of Zebedee
5. Philip
6. Bartholomew, also called Nathanael
7. Thomas, also called Didymus
8. Matthew the publican also called Levi
9. James, the son of Alphaeus
10. Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus, also called Jude/Judah
11. Simon the Canaanite, the Zealot (Zelotes)
12. Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him and later committed suicide
13. Matthias, who replaced Judas (Acts 1:25-26)
14. Paul, a Pharisee renamed by Jesus (Saul) (Acts 14:14)
15. Barnabas (Acts 14:14)
16. Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25)
17. Titus (2 Corinthians 8:23)
18. James, brother of Jesus (Gal 1:19)
19. Silvanus (1Thess 1:1, 2:6)
20. Timothy (1Thess 1:1, 2:6)

Mathias: First Appointed Apostle #13 after the death of Judas, Mathias appears to be included in the terminology of the *original* twelve apostles. (Acts 1:25-26; Rev 21:14)

Paul of Tarsus: Appointed by Jesus #14 (Acts 14:14; Romans 1:1; 11:13; 1 Corinthians 1:1; 9:1-2, 5; 15:9; 2 Corinthians 1:1; 11:5; 12:11-12; Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 2:25; Colossians 1:1; 1 Timothy 1:1; 1 Timothy 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:1, 11; Titus 1:1)

Jesus is referred to as an Apostle: Jesus is an Apostle in the sense He was sent by God the Father. The Apostles that Jesus appointed and established are sent by Jesus to the church. Hebrews 3:1

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Epaphroditus and Titus: Apostolos is translated as messenger which obscures the fact that Paul indicates that the church is to call them apostles.

Silvanus and Timothy: Paul calls them apostles when writing to the church at Thessalonica (1Thess 1:1, 2:6). Timothy is also called a deaconos (Servant also translated as deacon in 1Timothy 3) as is the apostle Paul and Jesus.

Definitions

652 ἀπόστολος apostolos (ap-os'-tol-os)

a messenger, one sent on a mission, an apostle:— a delegate; specially, an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ ["apostle"] (with miraculous powers):—apostle, messenger, he that is sent.

NAS-apostle (19) apostles (52) apostles' (5), messenger (1), messengers (1), is sent (1)
AV-apostle 78, messenger 2, he that is sent 1; 81

- 1) a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders
 - 1a) specifically applied to the twelve apostles of Christ
 - 1b) in a broader sense applied to other eminent Christian teachers
 - 1b1) of Barnabas
 - 1b2) of Timothy and Silvanus

651 ἀποστολή apostole (ap-os-tol-ay')

from 649; *a sending away:*— commission, i.e. (specially) apostolate:—apostleship.

NAS-apostleship (4).

AV-apostleship 4; 4

- 1) a sending away
 - 1a) of the sending off of a fleet
 - 1b) of consuls with an army, i.e. of an expedition
- 2) a sending away, i.e. a dismissal, release
- 3) a thing sent, esp. of gifts
- 4) in the NT, the office and dignity of the apostles of Christ, apostleship

5570 ψευδαπόστολος pseudapostolos (psyoo-dap-os'-tol-os)

from 5571 and 652; *a false apostle:*— a spurious apostle, i.e. pretended pracher:—false teacher.

NAS-false apostles (1).

AV-false apostle 1; 1

- 1) a false apostle, one who falsely claims to be an ambassador of Christ

Scriptures

Matthew 10:2

Now the names of the twelve **apostles <652 apostolos>** are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

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Mark 6:30

The **apostles <652 apostolos>** *gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught.

Luke 6:13

And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as **apostles <652 apostolos>**:

Luke 9:10

When the **apostles <652 apostolos>** returned, they gave an account to Him of all that they had done. Taking them with Him, He withdrew by Himself to a city called Bethsaida.

Luke 11:49

"For this reason also the wisdom of God said, 'I will send to them prophets and **apostles <652 apostolos>**, and *some* of them they will kill and *some* they will persecute,

Luke 17:5

The **apostles <652 apostolos>** said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

Luke 22:14

When the hour had come, He reclined *at the table*, and the **apostles <652 apostolos>** with Him.

Luke 24:10

Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the *mother* of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the **apostles <652 apostolos>**.

John 13:16

"Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor *is one who is sent <652 apostolos>* greater than the one who sent him.

Acts 1:2

until the day when He was taken up *to heaven*, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the **apostles <652 apostolos>** whom He had chosen.

Acts 1:25-26

25 to occupy this ministry and **apostleship <651 apostole>** from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."

26 And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven **apostles <652 apostolos>**.

Acts 2:37

Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the **apostles <652 apostolos>**, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

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Acts 2:42

They were continually devoting themselves to the **apostles' <652 apostolos>** teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:43

Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles **<652 apostolos>**.

Acts 4:33-37

- 33 And with great power the **apostles <652 apostolos>** were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.
- 34 For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales
- 35 and lay them at the **apostles' <652 apostolos>** feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.
- 36 Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the **apostles <652 apostolos>** (which translated means Son of Encouragement),
- 37 and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the **apostles' <652 apostolos>** feet.

Acts 5:2, 5, 10

- 2 and kept back *some* of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the **apostles' <652 apostolos>** feet.
- 5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it.
- 10 And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

Acts 5:12

At the hands of the **apostles <652 apostolos>** many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico.

Acts 5:18

They laid hands on the **apostles <652 apostolos>** and put them in a public jail.

Acts 5:29

But Peter and the **apostles <652 apostolos>** answered, "We must obey God rather than men.

Acts 5:40

They took his advice; and after calling the **apostles <652 apostolos>** in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and *then* released them.

Acts 6:6

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And these they brought before the **apostles <652 apostolos>**; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.

Acts 8:1

Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the **apostles <652 apostolos>**.

Acts 8:14

Now when the **apostles <652 apostolos>** in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John,

Acts 8:18

Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the **apostles' <652 apostolos>** hands, he offered them money,

Acts 9:27

But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the **apostles <652 apostolos>** and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.

Acts 11:1

Now the **apostles <652 apostolos>** and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

Acts 14:4

But the people of the city were divided; and some sided with the Jews, and some with the **apostles <652 apostolos>**.

Acts 14:14

But when the **apostles <652 apostolos>** Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out

Acts 15:2

And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, *the brethren* determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the **apostles <652 apostolos>** and elders concerning this issue.

Acts 15:4

When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the **apostles <652 apostolos>** and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them.

Acts 15:6

The **apostles <652 apostolos>** and the elders came together to look into this matter.

Acts 15:22

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Then it seemed good to the **apostles <652 apostolos>** and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas—Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren,

Acts 15:23

and they sent this letter by them, "The **apostles <652 apostolos>** and the brethren who are elders, to the brethren in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia who are from the Gentiles, greetings.

Acts 16:4

Now while they were passing through the cities, they were delivering the decrees which had been decided upon by the **apostles <652 apostolos>** and elders who were in Jerusalem, for them to observe.

Romans 1:1

Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an **apostle <652 apostolos>**, set apart for the gospel of God,

Romans 1:5

through whom we have received grace and **apostleship <651 apostole>** to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,

Romans 11:13

But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an **apostle <652 apostolos>** of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry,

Romans 16:7

Greet Andronicus and Junias, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are outstanding among the **apostles <652 apostolos>**, who also were in Christ before me.

1 Corinthians 1:1

Paul, called as an **apostle <652 apostolos>** of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

1 Corinthians 4:9

For, I think, God has exhibited us **apostles <652 apostolos>** last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

1 Corinthians 9:1-2, 5

- 1 Am I not free? Am I not an **apostle <652 apostolos>**? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?
- 2 If to others I am not an **apostle <652 apostolos>**, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my **apostleship <651 apostole>** in the Lord.
- 5 Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the **apostles <652 apostolos>** and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?

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1 Corinthians 12:28

And **God has appointed in the church**, first **apostles <652 apostolos>**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, then **miracles**, then gifts of **healings, helps, administrations**, *various* kinds of tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:29

All are not **apostles <652 apostolos>**, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not *workers of* miracles, are they?

1 Corinthians 15:7

then He appeared to James, then to all the **apostles <652 apostolos>**;

1 Corinthians 15:9

For I am the least of the **apostles <652 apostolos>**, and not fit to be called an **apostle <652 apostolos>**, because I persecuted the church of God.

2 Corinthians 1:1

Paul, an **apostle <652 apostolos>** of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth with all the saints who are throughout Achaia:

2 Corinthians 8:23

As for Titus, *he is* my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our **brethren**, *they are* **messengers <652 apostolos>** of the churches, a glory to Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:5

For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent **apostles <652 apostolos>**.

2 Corinthians 11:13

For such men are **false apostles, <5570 pseudoapostolos>** deceitful workers, disguising themselves as **apostles <652 apostolos>** of Christ.

2 Corinthians 12:11-12

11 I have become foolish; you yourselves compelled me. Actually I should have been commended by you, for in no respect was I inferior to the most eminent **apostles <652 apostolos>**, even though I am a nobody.

12 The signs of a true **apostle <652 apostolos>** were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.

Galatians 1:1

Paul, an **apostle <652 apostolos>** (not *sent* from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead),

Galatians 1:17

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nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were **apostles <652 apostolos>** before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus.

Galatians 1:19

But I did not see any other of the **apostles <652 apostolos>** except James, the Lord's brother.

Galatians 2:8

(for He who effectually worked for Peter in *his apostleship <651 apostole>* to the circumcised effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles),

Ephesians 1:1

Paul, an **apostle <652 apostolos>** of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and *who are* faithful in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 2:20

having been built on the foundation of the **apostles <652 apostolos>** and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,

Ephesians 3:5

which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy **apostles <652 apostolos>** and prophets in the Spirit;

Ephesians 4:11

And He gave some as **apostles <652 apostolos>**, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

Philippians 2:25

But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your **messenger <652 apostolos>** and minister to my need;

Colossians 1:1

Paul, an **apostle <652 apostolos>** of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

1 Thessalonians 2:6

nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as **apostles <652 apostolos>** of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

1 Timothy 1:1

Paul, an **apostle <652 apostolos>** of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, *who is* our hope,

1 Timothy 2:7

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For this I was appointed a preacher and an **apostle <652 apostolos>** (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

2 Timothy 1:1

Paul, an **apostle <652 apostolos>** of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus,

2 Timothy 1:11

for which I was appointed a preacher and an **apostle <652 apostolos>** and a teacher.

Titus 1:1

Paul, a bond-servant of God and an **apostle <652 apostolos>** of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness,

Hebrews 3:1

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the **Apostle <652 apostolos>** and High Priest of our confession;

1 Peter 1:1

Peter, an **apostle <652 apostolos>** of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen

2 Peter 1:1

Simon Peter, a bond-servant and **apostle <652 apostolos>** of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

2 Peter 3:2

that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your **apostles <652 apostolos>**.

Jude 1:17

But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the **apostles <652 apostolos>** of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Revelation 2:2

'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves **apostles <652 apostolos>**, and they are not, and you found them *to be* false;

Revelation 18:20

"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and **apostles <652 apostolos>** and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her."

Revelation 21:14

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And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them *were* the twelve names of the twelve **apostles** <652 **apostolos**> of the Lamb.