

## 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,<sup>16</sup> to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,<sup>17</sup> nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those *who were* apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.<sup>18</sup> 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:<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—<sup>4</sup> how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. ...<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part.<sup>10</sup> But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.