

Apostolic Studies Series- What Apostles Do

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In this age of the restoration of the apostolic function (not "office"), the church has formulated many ideas about what apostles are and what they do. The church would be better served if it would allow the apostles to give to the church biblical clarity to how they function in the Body of Christ.

1. Apostles are counted **FIRST** in the Kingdom -**1Cor. 12:28**
2. Apostles are also counted **LAST** in the Kingdom- **1Cor. 4:9**
3. Apostles are SENT- By the Church, and by the Holy Ghost.- **Acts 13:1-4**
4. Apostles are Church- planters- But not all do.
5. Biblically, Apostles function in teams of two or more apostles or five-fold ministry gifts.- **Acts 3:1, Acts 11:20-26, Acts 12:25, Acts 13:1, Acts 16:19-40**
6. Apostles are servants to ministries. They use their gifts to help ministries grow. - **Acts 11:20-26**
7. Apostles Are Team- Builders. They both lead teams and submit to team- leaders as the situation dictates.
8. Apostles Are Bridge- Builders.
9. Apostles build PEOPLE, not buildings. They impart and activate spiritual gifts. -**Romans 1:11, Cor. 3: 5-11**
10. Apostles "study to show themselves approved." They strive to know their function, and exhort others to do the same. -**1 Timothy 4:13-16**
11. Apostles Are Various in their Functions
 - The Paul Type (**Father-Apostle**)
 - The Peter Type (**Big Brother-Apostle**)
 - Teaching Apostles /Evangelistic Apostles/ Prophetic Apostles
 - Female Apostles
 - Priscilla- **Acts 18, Romans 16:4**
 - Junia- **Romans 16:7**
 - Marketplace Apostles (**Myles Munroe, John Maxwell, Tudor Bismarck, etc.**)
12. Apostles manifest apostolic character and operate in signs, wonders and miracles -**2 Corinthians 12:12,**
13. Apostles endure enormous amounts of suffering, persecution, rejection and misunderstanding from the world AND the church. -**1 Cor. 4:9-13, 2 Cor. 6:4-10, 2 Cor. 11:23-28, 2Tim. 2:10**
14. Apostles desire to see believers formed into the image of Christ- **Galatians 4:19**

"First"- *Proton (gr.)

- 1) first in time or place
 - 1a) in any succession of things or persons
- 2) first in rank
 - 2a) influence, honour
 - 2b) chief
 - 2c) principal
- 3) first, at the first

Apostles are meant to bring change on local, regional, national and global levels- Every apostle must know his or her "METRON," or sphere of influence.

Apostolic Assignment in the local church (Peter-Type)

- Co-labors with local leadership- not as a "member," but as a team-mate.
- Encourage, strengthen and advise the local leadership. -Aquila and Priscilla
- Build the people by teaching, mentoring, training, educating.
- Uses his/her gifts to help the local church grow.

What Apostles DON'T Do:

1. Apostles do not preach condemnation- they preach the Gospel-to the church and in the world.
2. They generally do not "pastor" churches. They may plant them and move on.
3. "Peter-type" apostles don't strive to "take over" local churches when on assignment
4. Apostles don't formulate teach/preach their own doctrine. They stick to the Bible.

5. They don't bring forth "new" or extra-biblical revelation; rather, they bring clarity to what has already been written.
6. They don't usurp authority over God's people.
7. They don't disrespect other ministries/ ministers- they embody and teach ministerial ethics.
8. Create and rule their own "empires." Rather they exist to build God's people and serve the Kingdom of God.

Apostles are the carriers of the "apostolic" or "building" grace, of Christ. They embody the spirit of Jesus' declaration that "Upon this Rock, I will BUILD My church..."