

APOSTLES

The Church - Part 6

I. JESUS' ASCENSION

- A. Advantage to church
 - 1. Jesus fountainhead of all ministry
 - 2. Limited in time and space
- B. Gave smaller measures in many
 - 1. Deposited his apostolic ministry in apostles
 - 2. Deposited his apostolic ministry in apostles
- C. Five-fold ministry governmental ministries
 - 1. Responsibility
 - 2. Accountability
 - 3. Authority
- D. Built upon foundation of Apostles and Prophets - Eph. 2:20

II. DEFINITION OF APOSTLE

- A. apostolos -
 - 1. One who is sent forth
 - 2. Ambassador
 - 3. Messenger

III. LEVELS OF APOSTLES

- A. Jesus Christ - Heb. 3:1 - "*consider the apostle and High Priest of our profession--Christ Jesus*"
- B. Twelve apostles of the Lord
 - 1. Special place in eternity
 - 2. Requirement to have seen the Lord
- C. Post-ascension apostles
 - 1. Barnabus and Paul - Acts 14:4, 14
 - 2. Adronicus and Junia - Rom 16:7
 - 3. James - Gal. 1:19
 - 4. Silvanus and Timothy - I Thes. 1:1; 2:6
 - 5. Epaphroditus - Phil. 2:25
 - 6. Titus - II Cor. 8:23; titus 1:5

IV. MINISTRY OF THE APOSTLE

- A. Early apostles
 - 1. Writings inspired and preserved
 - 2. Transitional link between New and Old Covenants
 - 3. held young church steady in infancy
 - 4. Set in order early structure of church
 - 5. Provided for its continuity and effectiveness
 - 6. Outlined qualifications of those who would minister
 - 7. Took initiative to see that proper leadership was provided

- B. Ministry of apostles today
 - 1. Ground church in truth--not be swayed
 - 2. Minister foundational truth to body
 - 3. Love God's people, desire to further establish them
 - 4. Vision of church at large
 - 5. Seek to preserve unity within churches and cooperation between churches
 - 6. Fathered other ministries
 - 7. Leading individual ministries into their personal function in that body
 - 8. Pioneer churches

V. QUALIFICATIONS OF APOSTLES

- A. Heart of a father
 - 1. I Cor. 4:15 - "*...ten thousand instructors, not many fathers...*"
 - 2. I Thes. 2:6-8, 11
- B. Patient - II Cor. 12:12
 - 1. Patient
 - 2. Signs of an apostle
- C. Deep love and loyalty to the church - I Thes. 2:6-8
- D. Not given to self-glory
- E. Have servants heart
 - 1. Rom. 1:1 - Paul, a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - 2. Phil. 1:1 - servants

VI. RECOGNITION OF APOSTLES

- A. Not all will be received as apostles worldwide
- B. Paul was not (I Cor. 9:1-3)
 - 1. Knew where he was received
 - 2. Where he had produced apostolic fruit
- C. How recognized
 - 1. He should know himself
 - 2. Local church leaders should know
 - 3. Recognized by people of local church
 - 4. Known by those he had grounded and established in the faith