

The Apostles-Introduction

Why are we studying this?

The reason we are studying this is because of the evangelization of the Apostles, the formation of the Christian Church. I don't remember any instruction by Christ on the formation of the church. And the Apostles did this with the help of the Holy Spirit.

God uses men and women to reach the lost with the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. And the Apostles started the evangelism of the World and the organization of the Christian Church.

Meaning of Apostle: a person sent by another; a messenger; envoy.
Greek word for Messenger is Apostle.

Meaning of Disciple: refers to a learner or follower. We all fit into that.

Apostles Calling: Luke 6:12-13 And it was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. And when day came, He called His **Disciples** to Him; and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as **Apostles** (Moved from Disciple to Apostle).

Jesus's example when making big decisions – pray.

Jesus is the first Apostle of the Gospel

Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider **Jesus, the Apostle** and High Priest of our confession.

This description "Apostle" fits Jesus doesn't it?

The title Apostle is normally used as designating the body of disciples to whom He entrusted the **organization of his church** and the **dissemination** of his gospel, "the twelve apostles".

Organization brings structure. This ministry has a structure, governing board, authority. Structure normally brings success and is needed to operate. The Apostles created a structure for the new Church.

Qualification of the Apostles:

#1 Summoned by Jesus: Matthew 10:1 And having summoned His twelve disciples. Many followed, only twelve were summoned.

#2 Peter first, was Given the Keys to the Kingdom, then the others:

Matthew 16:19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; Jesus will make Peter the instrument of opening the door of faith to the world--the first to preach the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles.

#3 Make Disciples: Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you.

#4 Clothed with Power: Luke 24:49 "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

#5 Power of working miracles: Acts 2:43 And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

What qualifications are not included: Education, Family background, Employment. (these area can be helpful, but not listed). The key: Love for God and willingness to be obedient and serve. Fishers of men signifies service. Many of the disciples walked away when they heard the requirements.

Peter's criteria for Apostle selection after the death of Judas Iscariot:

Acts 1:21 "It is therefore necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us.

Picked by Lot – Drawing straws. Acts 1:26 And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Last time Matthias name is mentioned in the Bible.

Peter maybe acted too quickly to replace Judas. This was done before Pentecost, the falling of the Holy Spirit.

Apostle Paul – James killed, Paul replaces him.

Today there is a less restrictive interpretation of the word Apostle, and it is used for individuals today. I am uncertain of the correct usage of this title today; certainly, many of the criteria apply today.

Galilee

3 Districts of Israel: Judah, Samaria, and Galilee. Galilee was the largest, northern Israel. There was an upper and lower Galilee. Jesus lived there,

most of his miracles and teaching were done there. Their speech had a Galilean accent:

Mark 14:70 saying to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean too." Galileans were known for their patriotism and courage. Salt of the earth guys, (roofers, fishermen, truckers etc.)

Possibly all the apostles with the exception of Judas Iscariot (Judah) were Galileans.

Jesus was raised in Galilee

Luke 23:6-7 But when Pilate heard it, he asked whether the man (Jesus) was a Galilean. And when he learned that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who himself also was in Jerusalem at that time.

Jesus's Selection of the Apostles:

The apostles were from the lower ranks of life, simple and uneducated:

Acts 4:13 Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John, and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were marveling, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

That's what's the Holy Spirit does for us, gives us power. Many great speakers and Bible teachers I have heard have not gone to Bible College or Seminary. Those things are good but not always needed. Gerald Derstine, founder of Christian Retreat is a great example.

Some of Apostles were related to Jesus according to the flesh. Cousins James and John, maybe others. Many were connected to John the Baptist's ministry, forerunner ministry.

Apostles activity with Jesus:

1. They accompanied him in his journey
2. Saw his wonderful works
3. Heard his teaching and parables addressed to the people
4. Made inquiries of him on religious matters.
5. They recognized him as the Christ of God
6. Given power and sent out two by two to perform works
7. Supported Jesus through his trials and tribulations.

Listing of Apostles – 4 lists but variance of names:

Matthew 10:2-4 Simon, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas,
Matthew, James, Thaddaeus (Judas) , Simon, Judas Iscariot. (Missing Judas)
Mark 3:16-19 (Missing two; James, Judas)
Luke 6:14-16 (Missing Thaddaeus)
Acts 1:13 (Missing Judas Iscariot-dead)
Many of the apostles had multiple names, maybe they are nicknames. Bill,
William. Tony-Dwayne

Apostles Type of death (some questionable), most slaughtered but John:

Simon Peter – crucified, Andrew – possibly crucified, James – beheaded by King
Herod, Thomas – pierced with spears, Philip – unknown death as martyr,
Matthew – stabbed, Bartholomew – unknown death as martyr, James – Stoned
and clubbed to death, Matthias (selected to replace Judas Iscariot) – burned,
Apostle Paul – Beheaded, John – Natural death.

Apostolic reward:

Luke 22:28-30 And you are those who have stood by Me in My trials; and just as
My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you that you may eat and drink at
My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of
Israel.

We are going to meet the Apostles at some point. I have several questions for
them.

We might not be an Apostle, but we can be effective disciples. We have most of
the original qualifications. Most persons in heaven were led to Salvation in Jesus
Christ by a disciple, not by the Apostles.

It is interesting that Jesus used ordinary men, just like you and me, to start the
early church. Salt of the earth guys. Praise God!

I am so thankful for the Apostles for what they accomplished, and because of
their love for the Lord Jesus and their work on his behalf, they deserve to be
sitting as heads of the twelve tribes judging Israel. AMEN!