

I. Why do we need the Apostles? What is their role? What does the NT have to say? Where do the apostles lie in the heart of Christ?

Utilitarian, relevant, give me what is needed approach is our ruin. We need to see the bigger picture. I want to keep my head up and look as far as I can. If any heart I want to understand, I want to understand the heart of Christ.

A. Teachers, transmit tradition

1. παραδόσεις ἃς ἐδιδάχθητε
2. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. (2 Thessalonians 2:15)

B. Ancestors, spiritual family

1. More than even his own
2. But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, “He is out of His mind.” (Mark 3:21)

C. Foundation (building metaphor)

1. Ephesians 2:19-22 Foundation of a building on top of the Cornerstone
2. Revelation 21:14 Foundation of a building
3. you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:5)
4. The foundation stones have to be the hardest stones
5. The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone. (Psalms 118:22)
6. “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18)

D. Witnesses

1. That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have

The Apostles

fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:1-3)

E. Preach, Heal, Exorcise

1. Internship
2. Mark 3:14-15

F. Baptizers (even the deacons)

Even a deacon or a layman can baptize (in emergency)

1. Acts 8:26 (whole chapter)
2. Philip the deacon is baptizing
3. After the apostles hear that Samaria has accepted Christ, Peter and John go there and lay hands. Everybody that they laid hands on spoke in tongues. Simeon said, I also want that, here's money. Peter said you go to hell with your money. Simeon actually wants to be an apostle (the show of it, not the carrying of the witness). Peter was angry, thinking this man is asking something that doesn't belong to him.

G. Laying of hands

1. 1 Timothy 5:22
 - a. Timothy internship with Paul. What you learned from me as a way of life follow.
 - b. Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure. (1 Timothy 5:22)
 - c. Not all the 1st century missionaries had the power to lay hands. That means the apostles had the power to do that.
 - d. The second generation (Timothy) had the power to do that.
2. Laying on of hands of Saul Paul elevation to apostle
 - a. Galatians 2:9 "they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship"
3. Acts 13:1-3 Elevation, laying of hands. This is why you need 3 bishops
4. Fellowship, synod, not in haste, to make bishops, priests, deacons.
5. The apostles can give the Holy Spirit to any Christian, but not the other way around.

6. Receiving the Holy Spirit is one thing. Transmitting it to another is another.

H. Interesting Points

1. Cornelius received the holy spirit and started speaking in tongues. So “what can prevent him from being baptized?” He was “chrismated” even before baptized! But this speaking in tongues was temporary.
2. The SEAL sacraments. Laying of hands
 - a. Baptism. Bring them back with confession, perhaps excommunication for a time, public confession, anoint with oil and re-accept them.
 - b. Miwron.
 - c. Priesthood.
3. If person is visited by Holy Spirit, doesn't mean this will stay with them. We, like children, are excited, but the core of being one body is much more impressive. You can have icon with gold leaf but the back is still wood and paper. We, as humans and babies, like that veneer.
4. Excommunication
 - a. Temporary. For sin. Like committed adultery. A woman who aborted her baby for no threat to her life is excommunicated for a year. Somebody who blasphemed against God, calls him name, is excommunicated for a time. Someone who curses their parents.
 - b. Permanent. Someone who denies anything in the faith (the creed). Say someone doesn't believe in the 2nd coming, the incarnation, the apostolic church. They are automatically excommunicated. Almost the bishop has nothing to do with it.
5. Why God uses humans to transmit the Holy Spirit? He made a human being out of a human being? He wants a divine family. He chose that all humans come from one man, Adam. They receive life from each other. I received life from my parents. In the mind of God, we are patterned after the Trinity, ultimately we are one being. Otherwise I could say, I own myself and don't care about the others. We belong to a house cemented together by fire that came down from heaven. That fire is transmitted even through the living spirit of that body. Even though some of us were not very saintly, we are still one body. Sin and betrayal in the model did not prevent the Holy Spirit from coming down.

I. Summary

1. Apostles are necessary for the HS
2. They are the handing down of the tradition
3. They are the teachers of the universe
4. Witness of the cross and resurrection of Christ to us mere humans, speaking of things supernatural of things beyond the mind of human beings. God gave them lots of grace. We exist because of them. We are standing on top of them. We owe them a lot.