

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: What does the bible say about apostles.**

**What does the bible say about apostles. - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2004/11/9 15:01**

To start off, here is a quote from Larry Tomczak.

*"Apostles are men given as gifts by the ascended Christ for the ongoing building of His Church. They are men of proven ministry sent from a local church for translocal work."*

**Re: What is an Apostle? - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2004/11/9 15:02**

1) The word "Apostle" means "the sent one" John 3:16

This means that the "sent one" is not self-appointed, but sent

Jesus often said that He was sent by His Father. Jn. 13:17, 34; Gal 4:4,6; 1 Jn 4:9

2) He does not "stay": but "is sent".

a) All the fruit of the apostles' labours is to be handed over to the elders.

b) New converts are primarily cared for by elders, not apostles. Acts 14:23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them

c) Apostles minister in all the churches, but control none, unless he is the "presiding" elder of the church to which he belongs. We read of "the elders of Ephesus" but not of "the apostles of Ephesus"

d) Apostles and elders are often associated together in local leaderships. Acts 15:2, 4, 6, 22, 23

e) One man can be both an apostle and elder. i.e. Peter and John.

Both were apostles Lk 6:12,13

Both were elders. 1 Pet 5:1, 2 Jn 1, 3 Jn 1

When travelling-apostles

When home-elders

f) An apostle cannot be higher than an elder- otherwise you develop a "papacy"- in a local situation.

**Re: What does the bible say about apostles. - posted by RobertW (), on: 2004/11/9 15:13**

I was involved in discussions on this very topic in which we tried to match up current ministries with NT biblical ministries and then trace their origins back to the ancient Synagogues. As far as Apostle in the New Testament sense is concerned, the closest thing we have to that is a Missionary. Even though I believe in the 5 fold ministry of the Church, I believe what we call missionaries would best fit the title. Certainly we have to agree that the NT canon is closed and that any modern day Apostle would not carry the authority that the NT writers carried. To grant a person full blown Apostolic status would be to open the canon of scripture to new revelation. That, I can never accept.

God Bless,

-Robert

**Re: What does the bible say about apostles. - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/11/9 15:14**

Quote:  
 -----"Apostles are men given as gifts by the ascended Christ for the ongoing building of His Church. They are men of proven ministry sent from a local church for translocal work."  
 -----

They weren't sent from a local church. They were sent by the risen Christ and released from the local church.

The Darby translation captures the word 'apoluO' which means to 'set at liberty, to let go': **And as they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Separate me now Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. Then, having fasted and prayed, and having laid their hands on them, they let them go. They therefore, having been sent forth by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia, and thence sailed away to Cyprus.** (Act 13:2 -4 Darby)

The word 'separate' is the same word that Paul used to describe the cutting of the umbilical cord in Galatians 1:15.

**Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/11/9 15:32**

Quote:  
-----As far as Apostle in the New Testament sense is concerned, the closest thing we have to that is a Missionary. Even though I believe in the 5 fold ministry of the Church, I believe what we call missionaries would best fit the title.  
-----

I believe in the contemporary gifts of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (although I number them 4) but I don't think we can really equate missionaries with apostles.

In an earlier post I pointed out the very clear separation between the old 'local' church and the 'apostles'. Barnabas and Paul were very clearly detached from the local church. God required it and the local church released them. An apostle has a specific function rather than a particular origin or target. In some ways they are like one-man churches (not one-man ministries) in that they seem to have all the gifts necessary to see a church functioning fully from day one. Most modern missionaries are tailored for specific roles in the receiving country.

Quote:  
-----Apostles minister in all the churches, but control none, unless he is the "presiding" elder of the church to which he belongs. We read of "the elders of Ephesus" but not of "the apostles of Ephesus"  
-----

The concept of a *presiding elder* really has no basis in scripture but is part of the post-apostolic development of monarchical rule.

**Re: - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2004/11/9 15:34**

Gentleman, I am humbled by your replies, thankyou! :-D

**Re: Who are Apostles? - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2004/11/9 15:37**

1) Jesus – "The Apostle". Heb 3:1...fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. He was "the" sent one. Jn 13:16; Jn 3:17

2) The twelve apostles.

- a. They were also "sent ones"
- b. They were "witnesses of Christ's Resurrection". Acts 1:22,26
- c. The number was fixed. Rev 21:14, Matt 10:2; Jn 6:70,71
- d. When Judas committed suicide, God led the other eleven to replace him. Acts 1:21-26
- e. God accepted Matthias according to Acts 2:14
- f. Paul was never intended by God to be one of "The twelve". He did not meet the necessary requirements to become one of the twelve. He only became a Christian three years later. He distinguishes himself from the twelve in 1 Cor 15:5-8

3) Other Apostles in the New Testament.

The Father "sends" the Twelve- while here on earth

The Spirit "sends" others-now that Christ has returned to heaven, after His Ascension.

- a. There are more apostles named in the New Testament than any other Ephesians 4 ministry: four prophets named, one evangelist, one teacher, no pastors!
- b. There are nine other apostles mentioned by name:
  - i. Barnabas-Acts 14:14
  - ii. Paul-Acts 14:14
  - iii. Andronicus-Rom 16:7
  - iv. Junias-Rom 16:7
  - v. Silas (Silvanus)-1 Thess 1:1; 2:7
  - vi. Timothy-1 Thess 1:1; 2:7
  - vii. James, Jesus' natural brother and not one of the Twelve-Gal 1:19
  - viii. Apollos-1 Cor 4:6, 9

ix. Epaphroditus-Phil 2:25

If the number was fixed at twelve, then there would not have been a possibility of others posing as apostles and deceiving the believers-Rev 2:2

This was some 50 years after Pentecost!

c. Also there are references to counterfeit or false apostles-2 Cor 11:13

4) There is far more said about the ministry of apostles than all other ministries combined

**Re: - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2004/11/9 15:39**

Quote:

philologos wrote:

The concept of a *presiding elder* really has no basis in scripture but is part of the post-apostolic development of monarchical rule.

Hence the " ". ;-)

**Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/11/9 15:41**

Quote:

-----Gentleman, I am humbled by your replies, thank you!

and I by yours! :-D

This topic has been a life-long study and passion. ;-)

**Re: - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2004/11/9 15:45**

Quote:

philologos wrote:

This topic has been a life-long study and passion.

Thank goodness I've got notes, because you'd probably pull strips out of me. And based on your photograph it seems that that life-long passion is substantially longer than my entire life existence. Not that you look 'that' old. 8-)

**Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/11/9 15:54**

Quote:

-----Thank goodness I've got notes, because you'd probably pull strips out of me.

I've got notes too, but most of them are in my head.

Quote:

-----And based on your photograph it seems that that life-long passion is substantially longer than my entire life existence. Not that you look 'that' old

-----  
That picture at the top of the Abraham Devotions isn't me, its Abraham!

**Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2004/11/9 15:55**

Quote:  
-----That picture at the top of the Abraham Devotions isn't me, its Abraham!  
-----

**Re: Something about books and there covers - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2004/11/9 16:16**

Quote:  
-----  
philologos wrote:  
That picture at the top of the Abraham Devotions isn't me, its Abraham!  
-----

And all along I thought you wore glasses and didn't lean on a stick. :-D

**Re: - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2004/11/9 16:20**

To let you know there will be other instalments to this thread:

What do they do  
Are there Apostles today  
What are the signs of an Apostle  
What is an Apostolic team

From my timezone, sleeptight

**Re: What Do They Do? - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2004/11/10 14:04**

The scope of their ministry, both spiritually and geographically, is vast.

**Ministry:** They are primarily involved in a five-fold ministry: -

**Foundation:**

Planting-new churches-Paul was always looking for virgin territory to build new churches.  
Parenting-“orphan” churches- sorting out foundations. In both these categories, Planting and Parenting, they have a gifting, foundationally, that no others can impart.

They can teach the same parts of the Bible as others but impart something others cannot  
**They cannot add to, or take away form, the Bible.**

But God lays “foundations” in our lives and churches, through their insight and teaching of the word.

**Revelation:**

They bring visionary revelation and understanding to God’s people.They show them how to proceed as they discover “restored” truth about church life.

**Formation (setting in order):**

Of lives  
Of church life-structures, etc  
Of decisions regarding government and doctrine

**Emancipation (liberty and freedom) keeps churches free:**

From wrong emphasis

Doctrinal off-centeredness

Spiritual coldness

Incorrect practice: he is a safeguard to the churches

Legalism: Many believers still live in condemnation. He brings grace to set us free.

Terry Virgo: "Apostolic doctrine handled with apostolic authority and insight is desperately needed.

#### **Edification:**

He can "supply what is lacking in your faith," 1 Thess 3:10

Brings unity to the work of God at large

Paul brought a sense of unity, which resulted in material help being passed from church to church. The Church in Jerusalem was helped by other churches he visited.

Apostles envision churches with a wider implication of the body of Christ.

Terry Virgo: "Through their relationship with the thrust of an apostle the (other churches) were caught up in an international fellowship and the spreading of the Gospel worldwide. **Individuals in local churches who lack this large vision are often tempted to become inward-looking and negative**, but when there is a world vision and the stimulus of news from other growing churches, there is a strong motivation and desire for expansion."

**Ordination of elders:** Acts 14:23... "Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church." Apostles ordain elders. We do not find other elders ordaining elders in scripture

Sometimes apostles will send a representative. Titus 1:5... "The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you." But their apostolic authority is behind him.

#### **Movements**

Apostles itinerate-do not settle down. Once commissioned, they cannot be confined to one location

It is the Holy Spirit who directs apostles where to go, not any individual of local church.

Answerable to the Holy Spirit and team members

Once apostles have established a church they move on. They do not keep shepherding each local church

Apostles ordain elders to look after the work.

#### **Primary and secondary relationships:**

Apostles have a "primary" relationship with the churches **they serve**, but not an "exclusive" one.

Other ministries can enhance the "building" but never directionally.

#### **Are there Apostles Today? - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2004/11/10 14:11**

The answer is an emphatic "Yes". They are "indispensable".

Eph 4:7-13 mentions the exalted position of Jesus in His giving "gifts".

The original Twelve were Pre-ascension apostles

These are Post-ascension apostles.

#### **For how long will we have apostles?**

**God has always intended that these ministries be present in the church in every generation.**

Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son Of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ

#### **Does not an apostle have to have written part of the New Testament?**

Only five of the over 12 apostles mentioned in the Bible are credited with writing parts of the New Testament: Matthew, John, Paul, Peter, James

The remaining apostles never penned a word of scripture.

Some who wrote scripture were not apostles-e.g. Mark and Luke.

### The how of Sending Apostles - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2004/11/10 14:18

#### The Call.

Acts 13:1,2 "In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. 2While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

The **Holy Spirit called** those who were already in ministry, bearing responsibility where they were.

He calls them in that situation, from it.

It must be a divine call. "the work to which I have called them."

#### The Confirmation:

The Holy Spirit called them, but he also spoke to the other prophets and teachers.

Directly to the apostles, indirectly through others. **Both are essential**

He spoke through the prophets and teachers, not the church, although they could represent the church.

#### The Commission

The call must be followed by the commission-Acts 13:3. So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

**This is God's Protection against "free-lancers".**

Prophets and teachers commission apostles, not the church.

### What is an apostolic team? - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2004/11/10 14:27

**In order to experience New Testament results we must go back to New Testament patterns.**

Eph 4:11,12. 11It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

Apostles  
Prophets  
Evangelists  
Pastors and teachers.

All of these **together** "prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up". Vs.12 The declaration of Eph. 4 is that the ultimate work of the church is to be done by "God's people"-the believers- not the paid professionals.

Larry Tomczak. "All of these gift ministries are **expressions of Jesus Himself**. Our Lord-the Great Apostle, Great Prophet, Great Evangelist, Great Pastor, and Great Teacher-has distributed the ministry that **He alone embodies** to the church he so loves

• The apostle is needed to govern  
• The prophet is needed to guide  
• The evangelist is needed to gather  
• The pastor is needed to guard  
• The teacher is needed to ground

The apostle is an architect (wise builder) and strategist. The prophet is...a submitted and anointed seer who brings necessary revelation and insight to keep the house of God pure and on the right track...The evangelist, contrary to his stereotyped image does more than herald the good news to the unconverted. He equips and motivates the church to become evangelistic in lifestyle while also training other gifted evangelists into their high calling.

The pastor and teacher, at the grass-roots level, labour with other leaders in providing personal care for the flock, instructing the people by teaching and example in the Word of God, and in serving the apostolic-prophetic ministries by implementing their strategy and vision..."

“ It is a group of Eph. 4:11 men, each based in a local church, who labour together in establishing new churches and oversee the rebuilding and on going development of existing churches. ...This team of envisioned men seeks to establish New Testament churches where God's redeemed people, under the loving oversight of a plurality of leaders, are built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.”(Eph. 2:22)

**There are a number of such references to team in the New Testament.**

Acts 13:13... From Paphos, Paul and **his companions** sailed to Perga in Pamphylia.

Acts 20:3-6,34... where he stayed three months. Because the Jews made a plot against him just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia. 4He was **accompanied by** Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. 5These men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. 6But we sailed from Philippi after the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and five days later joined the others at Troas, where we stayed seven days. ...You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs **and the needs of my companions.**

Some comprise of Eph 4:11 and other people.

Rom 16:1-15 Some of these people must have travelled at some time with Paul.

Phil 4:2,3 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. 3Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women **who have contended at my side** in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and **the rest of my fellow workers**, whose names are in the book of life.

Some teams have wider effectiveness than others.

They must have a home base where they are held accountable. Either a Jerusalem or Antioch type church.

#### Re: The how of Sending Apostles - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/11/10 14:52

Hi ZekeO

Quote:

-----The Call.

Acts 13:1,2 “In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. 2While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

But this was not Paul's call. This was Paul's call; **And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.**

(Act 26:15-18 KJV)The underlined section says **unto whom I am now apostling you.** Paul was an apostle from that day. Churches can't apostle apostles, only God can apostle apostles.

Quote:

-----The Holy Spirit called those who were already in ministry, bearing responsibility where they were.

He calls them in that situation, from it.

It must be a divine call. “...the work to which I have called them.”

This was not Paul's call, it was a reference to Paul's call. **As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.** (Act 13:2 KJV)Not, to which I am calling them, but to which I 'have called them'. This is perfect tense. Barnabas and Paul had already been called, now



it was time for the church to release them.

Quote:

-----The Confirmation:

The Holy Spirit called them, but he also spoke to the other prophets and teachers.

Directly to the apostles, indirectly through others. Both are essential

He spoke through the prophets and teachers, not the church, although they could represent the church.

-----  
The men named in verse one are said to be 'in the church'. That does not mean in a church meeting; **Now there were in Antioch, in the assembly which was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Nig er, and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, foster-brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. And as they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Separate me now Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.** (Act 13:1-2 Darby) These verses identify certain recognisable giftings in the local assembly in Antioch, 5 of them, Paul and Barnabas were among them. It does not say that God spoke through one of these. The word of God came into the assembly, we are not told the channel. Leaders often presume that it must have been another leader but there is not evidence to support that view.

Quote:

-----The Commission

The call must be followed by the commission-Acts 13:3. So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

This is God's Protection against "free-lancers".

Prophets and teachers commission apostles, not the church.

-----  
No one 'sent them off'. The Holy Spirit said 'separate them for the work to which I have already called them. They were not 'sent' by church or by the other three. **Then, having fasted and prayed, and having laid their hands on them, they let them go.**(Act 13:3 Darby) They obeyed the word of God and released them. They were not commissioned by the other three or by the church; they were commissioned by God.

the next verse tells us who did the sending **They therefore, having been sent forth by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia, and thence sailed away to Cyprus.** (Act 13:4 Darby) sent forth is 'despatched'. The word was used in business communications of the day to signify an export. So the real story behind Acts 13 is in the assembly there were 5 recognised giftings. God had already earmarked 2 for a wider purpose. The time had come and he required the local church to release them. They did so and the Holy Spirit despatched them. They were called, commissioned and despatched by the Holy Spirit.

other than that I agree with every word you wrote. :-D

**Re: What is an apostolic team? - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/11/10 15:10**

Hi Zekeo

Quote:

-----The apostle is an architect (wise builder) and strategist. The prophet is a submitted and anointed seer who brings necessary revelation and insight to keep the house of God pure and on the right track...The evangelist, contrary to his stereotyped image does more than herald the good news to the unconverted. He equips and motivates the church to become evangelistic in lifestyle while also training other gifted evangelists into their high calling.

The pastor and teacher, at the grass-roots level, labour with other leaders in providing personal care for the flock, instructing the people by teaching and example in the Word of God, and in serving the apostolic-prophetic ministries by implementing their strategy and vision..."

I liked the website but if this is the sub-text I am going off it. This is not biblical revelation; it is a 21st century view of the 1st century church described by project managers.

Paul had no strategy, nor a plan. He just walked a step at a time as the Spirit enabled him. We have no idea of the 'strategy' of any other apostles.

The above description of a prophet has nothing in common with the prophets we find in the New Testament; this is project-management speak. Keeping the team on vision.



The above definition of an evangelist has no support from the New Testament. Can you hear the management speak again? he equips and motivates!

The above description of the role of the pastor-teacher has no support from the New Testament either. This is just a gentler version of the old shepherding methodology.

and... there is no reference to 'teams' in the New Testament. These are 21st century project management templates imposed onto a historical record of spontaneous expansion in the power of the Spirit.

This is not the description of a New Testament pattern, but that of controlling technocrats with their franchise methodologies.

My apologies if this comes over strongly. I did tell you that this topic was one of my passions! :-?

Re: - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2004/11/10 15:17

Quote:

philologos wrote:

My apologies if this comes over strongly. I did tell you that this topic was one of my passions! :-?

I respect your eye for scriptural integrity, and we are both after all looking for Jesus in Truth. So your apology is not accepted, because there was no offence taken.:-)

Blessings,

Re: - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2004/11/10 15:43

Quote:

philologos wrote:

Barnabas and Paul had already been called, now it was time for the church to release them.

Paul makes sense enough but when was Barnabas called?

Now there were **in Antioch**, in the assembly which was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, foster-brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **And as they were ministering** to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Separate me now Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. (Act 13:1-2 Darby)

Quote:

It does not say that God spoke through one of these. The word of God came into the assembly, we are not told the channel. Leaders often presume that it must have been another leader but there is not evidence to support that view.

Seriously Ron, my English may be mixture of all of other tongues but the context of the **they** has to be the gentlemen mentioned proceeding it.:-?

Quote:

They were not 'sent' by church or by the other three. They obeyed the word of God and released them.

Exactly, but it more has to do with the fact the church leadership were in agreement that these men were indeed called/sent by God and not their own ideas.

Quote:

They were not commissioned by the other three or by the church; they were commissioned by God.

I agree, but they were sent from that local church with that local churches blessing, not as lose canons.

Quote:

They were called, commissioned and despatched by the Holy Spirit.

I agree, but I sense the differences in our understanding is that God works with his church in fulfilling his purpose. The leadership in that church it see ms had pretty good grip on the Holy Spirit and hearing his voice, so they just endorsed what was already happening. The church universal hasn't alwa ys been so disconnected from the head as much as it appears to day. She did at one stage listen to what the head was saying.

Quote:

other than that I agree with everyword you wrote. :-D

Great, I enjoy your juice :-D

**Re: - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2004/11/10 16:03**

philologos wrote:

This is not biblical revelation; it is a 21st century view of the 1st century church described by project managers.

In a business sense you are right, the church is a family.

Quote:

Paul had no strategy, nor a plan.

Acts 16:7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus **would not allow them to.**

Indicates that they had some plan, which was not on Gods plan. I think I have just progressed to splitting an Atom. :-)

Quote:

These are 21st century project management templates imposed onto a historical record of spontaneous expansion in the power of the Spirit.

So you are saying that the concept of team is only a 21st Century idea in business? The devil cannot create anything, h e can only counterfeit the reality that comes from God. In Genesis 1:26 'Let **us** make man...' we see the first instance of more that one being involved in a project. The Godhead is the most perfect team/family that is. Team originated with God, not dead men.

**Re: - posted by dohzman (), on: 2004/11/10 16:06**

From the heart,here goes----I've seen all the fades come and go and come and go since the Jesus movement.Now its la bels.I cringe everytime I'm introduced. I've come to the conclusion the the finial words spoken are always the best ----to hear Jesus say well done thou good and faithful SERVANT,enter into the joy of the Lord.What's wrong with just being a servant.I 've come to the point where I don't want a title, I don't want people looking at the giftings that seem to operate t hrough my life and based on these label me this or that. My only desire is to be a servant obedient to my Lord Jesus Chr ist. Titles I think are an Americanism, And the church in America is in deep trouble.If there were men who were true prop hets and apostles going around in America right now with the same authority as the NT apostles did I 'm afraid many Am erican Ministers would drop over dead right where they stand as the judgement of God came to vindicate His Holy Word.

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/11/10 18:01

Hi ZekeO

Glad you're taking it like this. I thought I might have been a little too strident. :-o

Quote:

-----Paul makes sense enough but when was Barnabas called?

-----

I don't know. I only know it says 'whom I have called' and that it is in the perfect tense, hence not 'I am calling' or 'I will call' but 'I have called' at some time in the past.

Quote:

-----Seriously Ron, my English may be mixture of all of other tongues but the context of the they has to be the gentlemen mentioned proceeding it.

-----

Sometimes you can't tie the pronoun in to the nearest noun in bible language. Here is the classic demonstration of this; **Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.** (Isa 37:36 KJV):-D Although I've certainly had a few mornings that seemed pretty much like that.

Quote:

-----Exactly, but it more has to do with the fact the church leadership were in agreement that these men were indeed called/sent by God and not their own ideas.

-----

Why do you refer to these 5 men as the church leadership? You are projecting 21st century contemporary church patterns into these verses. The amazing thing is that God so respects the local church that He would not take Barnabas and Paul without the church's permission. He is certainly determined that we be part of His will.

Quote:

-----I agree, but they were sent from that local church with that local church's blessing, not as loose canons.

-----

No they weren't 'sent' by that local church at all. They were released by the local church and sent by God. This is my main point. Your pattern-church is not what your exposition claims it to be. It is a much looser thing all together.

Quote:

-----I agree, but I sense the difference in our understanding is that God works with his church in fulfilling his purpose. The leadership in that church it seems had pretty good grip on the Holy Spirit and hearing his voice, so they just endorsed what was already happening. The church universal hasn't always been so disconnected from the head as much as it appears to day. She did at one stage listen to what the head was saying.

-----

No. ;-) they didn't endorse anything. They just did what they were told. They just cut the umbilical cord and let them go. And we know nothing at all about the leadership of that church.

If your group are saying this is the way God is leading us, I have no complaints. If they are saying this is what the Bible teaches, then I have to oppose it. These conclusions have not been reached by exegesis and exposition but by conjecture. What they have produced is a hypothesis on the topic of first century church pattern. I believe that hypothesis is flawed at every point.

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/11/10 18:20

Quote:  
-----Acts 16:7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.

Indicates that they had some plan, which was not on Gods plan. I think I have just progressed to splitting an Atom.

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An intention is not a plan. A plan is a premeditated policy with a strategy to implement it. Paul is just testing whether this is the right thing to do. The word translated 'tried' is nearly always translated 'test' or 'tempt' in the New Testament. I have no doubt that Paul wanted to go. When he put it to the test, God said no. This just the next step and as Paul tried to take it God said 'no'.

Quote:  
-----So you are saying that the concept of team is only a 21st Century idea in business? The devil cannot create anything, he can only counterfeit the reality that comes from God. In Genesis 1:26 'Let us make man...' we see the first instance of more than one being involved in a project. The Godhead is the most perfect team/family that is. Team originated with God, not dead men.

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The jargon of the project manager betrays itself again here. Teams have leaders; is there a bible word for 'leader'. Is there a bible word for 'leadership'? What's wrong with co-labourers? The placing and interplay of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, within the framework you defined has behind it the skeleton of a gentile power structure. The Lord expressly declared that His kingdom would not be run in this way. The Godhead is not a team; the Godhead is fellowship.

Re: - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2004/11/10 22:53

Quote:  
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philologos wrote:  
Glad you're taking it like this. I thought I might have been a little too strident.

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Like I've said, I have notes. They are not my opinions or ideas and I would like to think that its truth from the word. One of our values is that the church is an organism, so if there is error in understanding or application, the faith that I have in the 'leadership' of the 'team' is that they would have left behind those things which are unhelpful.:-)

It actually comes from our leadership manuals, maybe things have changed in understanding in fifteen years, because the information that I have posted was written in 1989. That's why it is in this forum. Is the application of the word in keeping of the spirit of scripture. I think I may start a thread on leadership as that seems to be the next line of thinking, and it is subject so vast on its own.

Enjoy your day. :-D

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/11/11 2:50

Quote:  
-----I think I may start a thread on leadership as that seems to be the next line of thinking, and it is subject so vast on its own.

-----  
We did touch on the subject a little earlier, but it might be good to start again. Early Church Leadership

Quote:  
-----They are not my opinions or ideas and I would like to think that its truth from the word. Is the application of the word in keeping of the spirit of scripture.

-----  
The reason I came on so strong is that the whole summary of spiritual authority, as expressed in your manual, is presumptuous and has no basis in the biblical revelation.

The best that we could aim for in this sense is a hypothesis which is 'consistent with the spirit of the word'. Every group has justified its 'church pattern' by reference to the scripture. The real challenge would be to identify patterns of church life from the scripture itself rather than ask 'is what my church does consistent with the scripture'. When we attempt that we shall have to challenge every received concept. Notions of hierarchy are built into everything human and church history and even our bible versions have been infected with that concept.

The real question is what is the scriptural concept of authority (rather than leadership)?

**Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/11/11 3:50**

I came across this extract from Vine's Expository Dictionary this morning.

apoluo "to set free, to let go," is translated "to send away" in Matt\_14:15,22,23; Mark\_6:36,45; Mark\_8:3,9; Luke\_8:38; Acts\_13:3, where the "sending" is not that of commissioning, but of letting go, intimating that they would gladly have retained them (contrast ekpempo, the act of commissioning by the Holy Spirit in Acts\_13:4).

This is the word which the KJV, with its hierarchical power philosophy, translates as 'sent'; **And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.** (Act 13:3-4 KJV)

1. the first 'sent' is apoluO
2. the second 'being sent' is ekpempO - to despatch.

The Lord said, 'Cut them loose'  
The church 'released' them.  
The Holy Spirit 'despatched' them.

**Re: - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2004/11/11 15:01**

Quote:

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philologos wrote:

The real question is what is the scriptural concept of authority (rather than leadership)?  
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Vine's has some interesting things to say about authority, and I am looking forward to dissecting the word. If anything you are making me look for myself, which can only be good. Truth embraced, leads to a conviction that moves. So thanks! :-D

**Re: Summation - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2004/11/11 15:01**

My original intent for posting about this was because I was really concerned that valid biblical roles/responsibilities within the church universal may be written off because of excesses. It is the entire bible, available to all the church. Even if there are some/many who have taken a restored truth to an unbiblical extreme.

This is one of the best sites that I have ever come across, where the undoubted heart is 'Oh God rend the heavens.' But to have the heart and the passion without a viable wineskin pliable enough to accommodate what God is pouring in is heartbreaking. It's like there has been such bad models of leadership (exercising of authority) that any trappings of it is seen as a major hindrance to God moving in power, when it is together they operate, not, either or.

To see his wine spilt on the ground from broken wineskins that are inflexible (Matt 9:16,17) is an indictment against our tendency to build alters and dogmas, to people and things, which represented only a fraction of God's complete will for the church. The emphasis is not holiness, revival, tongues, healing, prophecy, evangelism or any other truth we hold dear. The Emphasis is Jesus Christ, In the fullness of the truth which/whom he is.

In the context of what I am posting, know one on the NCMI team would claim that we are it, that we have arrived, but merely a part of what God is doing around the world in fulfilling his great commission to his church through his Church. Paul encouraged the believers 'to follow me as I follow Christ.' It is that simple with NCMI. Following is not forced, you

can't drive sheep, you lead them. I use NCMI as my unit of measurement because that is the only Apostolic/Prophetic team that I am intimately acquainted with. This is by no means a public relations stunt, but an attempt to show that there are valid expressions of the five-fold ministry which operate in the context in which God originally ordained them. There are others, like NFI (New Frontiers International) and I am sure there are many more. God is not an exclusive God he is very much Inclusive. 'Whosoever will call on the Lord.'

**We proclaim him**, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that **we may present everyone perfect in Christ**. 29 To this end **I labor**, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. Col 1:28,29

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/11/11 16:12

Hi ZekeO

I hear your heart here and my own longings for a supple wineskin of God's ordering have haunted me for over 40 years.

Quote:

-----Following is not forced, you can't drive sheep, you lead them.

Just one last little tease...**Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, even from following the sheep, that thou shouldest be ruler over my people Israel:** (1Ch 17:7 KJV)

Quote:

-----This is by no means a public relations stunt...

I think the spirit of your posts make it clear that this would not be your motive. I don't advocate our 'pattern' either although we seek to be biblebased. Some time ago a brother spent some time with us in the church here. He commented "I have seen lots of churches where the church trusted the elders, but this is the first church I've seen where the elders trusted the church". It isn't always so, but it remains our aim. You certainly must never drive them but sometimes the best way of leading is by following the flock.