

Kingdom Foundations

Ephesians 2:20 states that the household of God is "built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone".

When Jesus began his public ministry he chose 12 disciples, and he named them "apostles". Now please take note here that He did not call them pastors, nor did he call them evangelists, or teachers. Neither were they called prophets, but He called them apostles. The Church of Jesus Christ is decidedly an apostolic Church with Jesus himself being the chief apostle.(Heb. 3:1)

There is no question that Father's design for the New Testament Church is an apostolic one. Is it any wonder that the Church is so weak and insipid, when in most sectors of the Kingdom, it does not have the proper government in place?

There has been much said in our pentecostal and charismatic circles about the "five-fold ministry". (Eph. 4:11) This includes the offices of the apostle, the prophet, the evangelist, the pastor and the teacher. The Church in Antioch in the 13th chapter or the Book of Acts was a five-fold church, with all of the ministry gifts functioning together. Some contend that these five gifts functioned on a circular plane, as co-equals. However, the Scriptures themselves state quite differently.

Let's look at ICorinthians 12:28. It states, "And God has set some in the Church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." First apostles, secondarily prophets, etc. This succinctly confirms Eph. 2:20!

Let's look at another supporting verse. Most brethren will agree that the High Priest was the singularly most powerful person in the O.T. Well look with me for a moment at Heb. 3:1, where it states,....."consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus". In a single verse Father combines the two most powerful offices from the O.T. and N.T., basically making these two positions equivalent. God has invested His greatest authority in the ministry office of the apostle, in the N.T. just as he did the High Priest in the O.T. How could we expect to prosper by rejecting this truth, and establishing the order of man instead?! As Dutch Sheets said in Jan. 2007, "It is time for ministers and ministries to get apostolically aligned". He went on to say that those who fail to take this opportunity to do so will be in regret that they didn't in a few short years. I believe there is yet time to do so, but the window may be closing as we speak. All truth is the Lord's truth. We cannot pick and choose which truth we will embrace.

If the Church of Jesus Christ is to be perfected in faith, (I Thess. 3:10) it must repent and return to the model that God established, and that model is Eph. 2:20. But, we must also be ever so mindful that only God can call a man as an

apostle, a prophet, an evangelist, a pastor, or a teacher. It is He who sets these offices in the Church. Man can only choose to endorse what God has decreed, and it also goes without saying that no amount of apostolic/prophetic foundation can prosper in the Kingdom of God without Jesus securely set as the chief cornerstone!!!

The greatest prophet born of women, John the Baptist, spent his entire life and ministry preparing the way for the greatest Apostle ever, Jesus Christ. All true prophets and prophetic people are still doing the same.....making way for the restoration of the apostles to the Church, that she may be brought to perfection, and have the spiritual order and authority intended for her to have in the earth.

All through the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, (note that it was the acts of the apostles, not pastors and teachers) the apostles and the prophets functioned together to see an infant Church grow and develop. This tandem ministry of prophets and apostles is paramount for the release of the power and the authority that God has in store for His end-times remnant!

Let me finish with this. Acts 2:42 states very clearly, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. In most local churches, the only missing ingredient is obviously the apostles' doctrine. The other three are very established. Again, I ask, is it any wonder that the Church is weak..... when we have such a dearth of true apostolic ministry, functioning along side the prophets, and in loving relationship with the evangelists, pastors and teachers? This entire concept is established in loving relationships of honor and respect. It is not a hierarchy according to the order of the world. Remember that the greatest among us shall be the servants of all.

The simple solution for this malaise is for the Church to repent of establishing its own order, and to return to the order that Jesus set in motion over 2000 years ago. The old order is being torn down, and the new order is coming forth!

The law and the prophets were until John, now the Kingdom of God is preached and every man presses into it. The preaching of the Kingdom began with the apostles and it will be finished in glory with their restoration! It's all a part of the present truth! Let's not miss out on it! May God be glorified!

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