

APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY

PROBLEMS WITH POPES, PROPHETS, AND PATRIARCHS

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

~ 2 Timothy 2:2

1. What is Apostolic Authority

- a. A succession of men holding the authority of the original apostles
- b. Not merely historical, but claims to pass along Supreme Power – CCC 882, 937
- c. Required for holding Tradition as an authority over the Bible

2. Identifying Apostles

- a. An apostle is a “sent one” from the Lord to lay a doctrinal foundation
- b. Apostles all had powers and signs to prove their apostleship – 2 Cor 12:12
- c. Apostles laid the foundation of Jesus Christ: Matt 16:18, 1 Cor 3:10-11, 2 Co 11:5
- d. The twelve apostles: Matt 10:2-6, Mat 10:40, John 20:21
- e. The apostle Paul: apostle to the Gentiles Gal 1:1, Rom 11:13
- f. Jesus Christ (who is the foundation) – Heb 3:1, John 3:16
- g. Other apostles sent by the Holy Ghost – Acts 14:14, 1 Cor 12:28
- h. False Apostles, deceitful workers – 2 Cor 11:13
- i. A foundation is only laid once, and it has been laid – Eph 4:11-13

3. The Holy Spirit’s Role

- a. Without the affirmation of the Holy Spirit, apostles have no divine authority
- b. The Spirit gave the apostles power and authority - John 14:26, 16:13, 1 John 2:20
- c. The Spirit taught them what to say - Luke 12:11-12, John 20:21-23
- d. The Spirit testified of Jesus, and revealed a mystery to Paul: John 15:26, Eph 3:4-5
- e. Apostolic succession denies the Spirit’s change of authority to Paul – Gal 2:6-9

4. Problems with Apostolic Authority

- a. The Seat – Peter taught the kingdom not the cross - Matt 16:15-18
 - i. The seat was over a tribe of Israel in the line of Moses – Mat 19:28, 23:2
 - ii. No evidence Peter was in Rome – 1 Pet 5:13, Rom 15:20
- b. The Succession – Scripture does not teach any authoritative succession
 - i. History debates the true succession (The Western Schism, Clement?)
 - ii. The earliest church fathers are a century after Paul – 2 Tim 1:15
 - iii. The apostolic fathers follow Peter, John, Greek/ Roman philosophy
- c. The Pope – He comes from the wrong apostle: Peter not Paul – 2 Pet 3:16
 - i. Has shown to lack the Spirit, salvation, and signs on many occasions
- d. Infallibility – A recent invention not worthy of any man - Gal 1:8, Acts 10:26, 14:15
- e. Keeps Revelation/Inspiration open – Col 1:25, 2 Tim 3:16-17
- f. Opens door to false apostles – Mormons, Islam, Pentecostals
- g. The Doctrine – The mystery of Christ is obscured by the Papacy - Rom 12:5
- h. Apostolic authority comes from God. The only apostolic authority we can claim comes from the preserved words of the Bible, rightly divided.