

Ministry Gifts

False Apostles

2 Corinthians 11:12-14 NKJV

But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. 13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

Falsehood in the Church

- I. A false apostle is someone who _____ a false image of himself.
 - A. It is someone who deliberately walks in a pretense that is _____.
 - B. They are someone who intentionally _____ facts or truths in order to lead people away from Godly truths or to take advantage of them.
 - C. We might view _____ as an example of someone who says they are calling in order to help you, but they're really out to help themselves.

- II. The **Apostle Paul** is describing the _____ problem of false apostles.
 - A. The **Apostle John**, in the book of Revelation, recounts Jesus _____ the church at Ephesus regarding this same problem.

Revelation 2:2 NKJV

"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

- B. **Jesus** _____ of coming false ministers in Matthew 24.
- C. The **Apostle Peter** addresses _____ in 2 Peter 2:1.
- D. The Apostle John reiterates the notion in 1 John 4:1 stating, "*many false _____ have gone into the world.*"
- E. Two times Paul mentions false _____ who were in the Church.
- F. The rise of false apostles, prophets and teachers in the early church grew to the point for there to be constant _____ regarding any visiting minister who had not been vetted as well as continual monitoring of known ministers.

False Apostle Traits

- III. Why would anyone _____ to be an apostle, if they weren't?

- A. It is possible for some to have claimed to be an apostle who used the term incorrectly or out of _____.
- B. Many, were not innocent. They deliberately claimed to be an apostle because they knew the _____ and _____ that accompanied the title.
1. They used it for their own _____.
 2. They did so to gain _____ in the Church.
- C. Is this so _____ from what has been going on in the modern church?
1. A pastor who _____ one church, never reaching more than 100 attendants, suddenly gets a revelation he is an apostle because he started a church.
 2. Ego and the need for _____ often accompany this behavior.
- D. This power comes with an ulterior motive - _____.
1. There are true ministers, anointed by God, who reveal Biblical truths regarding economics and increase.
 - a) You couldn't even mention money in the old church. (We were destroyed by ignorance and a lack of knowledge)
 - b) Today there are several, anointed ministers.
 2. These false apostles would _____ their audiences into large donations to support work that did not exist.
 3. Or, like a predator, they would take advantage of fledgling churches and _____ it for themselves, tithes and offerings included.
- E. This is why Paul pointed to his own _____ while he was among the Corinthians to uphold his apostleship.
1. He spoke the truth, without _____.
 2. He _____ with his own hands and did not burden them.
 3. He maintained a _____ relationship with them.

One True Apostle Trait

- IV. True apostolic authority is _____.
- A. Although spectacular revelation, signs and wonders are facets of genuine apostolic ministry, the fulfillment of that call is based on _____.
1. False apostles claimed it was on _____ alone.
 2. Although Paul was universally respected in the Early Churches an apostle, he was not an apostle to _____ first century believer.
 3. He was an apostle only to those with whom he had an apostolic relationship.
- B. Churches in other cities acknowledged Paul's apostleship, but he was not _____ apostle.

1. Other believers _____ him as an excellent minister, a beloved brother in the Lord and an able leader.
2. But, he only had apostolic _____ for the churches he helped start and for those he served as mentor, teacher and father in the faith.
3. We see this direct sense of not being an apostle to _____ in the following passage:

2 Corinthians 10:13-16 NKJV

13 We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you. 14 For we are not overextending ourselves (as though our authority did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ; 15 not boasting of things beyond measure, that is, in other men's labors, but having hope, that as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere, 16 to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's sphere of accomplishment.

C. Thus, ***true apostles*** _____ ***to other ministers*** of like class, since they recognize apostleship is relational.

1. This is one of the outstanding signs today whether a person is false - no _____.
2. They may even claim they are “under the _____” of another ministry or name.
3. Who on this earth is able to make you _____, even if you think you're in the right? Does this person know this from you?
 - a) If you have no one, then that may be a sign you are a _____.
 - b) Either we are Christians or we are _____.

V. Questions for _____ to avoid becoming false.

- A. Who has God placed in my life, for the rest of my life, to be _____?
- B. Do I feel the need to constantly _____ my work against others?
- C. Have I adequately learned how to trust God for _____ needs?
- D. Am I willing to _____, even if no one else seems to care?
- E. Am I able to lovingly _____ my doctrinal stances?