

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS  
THE GIFT OF APOSTLESHIP  
1 CORINTHIANS 12:28**

- I. “APOSTLES” ARE LISTED FIRST.**  
They are first in order of merit and authority.
- II. WHAT (OR RATHER “WHO”) IS AN “APOSTLE”?**  
*“Apostle” speaks of “one sent forth”*  
**Three usages of the term “apostle” in the New Testament:**
- A. “Apostle” Refers To The Lord Jesus Christ!**  
*Hebrews 3:1–“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;”*
- B. “Apostle”, In A Very Special Sense Refers To The Twelve Men Who Were Chosen By Christ To Lay The Foundation Of The Church!**  
*(Luke 6:13-16; Ephesians 2:20)*
1. After Judas betrayed the Lord and hung himself, the eleven remaining Apostles selected Matthias to replace him. *(Acts 1:15-26)*
  2. Later, Paul was selected directly by Christ to be an Apostle. *(1 Corinthians 15:7-9; 2 Corinthians 12:11-12; Galatians 1:1; Cf. Revelation 21:14)*
- C. “Apostle” Refers To Christian Workers In General.**  
*(2 Corinthians 8:23; Acts 14:14; Philippians 2:25)*  
Here we see the Greek word translated “apostle” is also translated “messenger” and “minister”.
- III. THERE ARE NO “APOSTLES” IN THE SPECIAL SENSE!**
- A. No One Qualifies To Be One Today!**
1. **They were chosen personally by Christ!**  
*(Luke 6:13-16; Galatians 6:1)*

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2. **They were twelve in number!**  
*(Luke 6:13-16; Acts 1:15-26; Revelation 21:14)*
  3. **They had seen the resurrected Christ!**  
*(Acts 1:22; 1 Corinthians 9:1; 15:7-9)*
  4. **They received their message by direct revelation!**  
*(Galatians 1:11-12)*
  5. **They had special signs to authenticate their message!**  
*(2 Corinthians 12:12; Acts 2:43; 4:33; 5:12)*
  6. **They could impart spiritual power and gifts to others!** *(Acts 8:17-19; 2 Timothy 1:6)*
  7. **They had the same authority as the Old Testament Prophets!** *(2 Peter 3:1-2)*
  8. **They wrote Scripture!**  
*(2 Peter 3:15-16)*
- B. There Were Only Twelve Apostles, And There Will Never Be More Than Twelve Throughout All Eternity!**  
*(Revelation 21:14)*
- C. The First Apostles Were Called To Lay The Foundation Of The Church!** *(Ephesians 2:20)*
- D. No New Testament Passage Instructs Churches To Select Or Ordain Apostles—Only Pastors and Deacons!**  
*(1 Timothy 3; Titus 1)*