

Apostle 4 “Counterfeit Apostles”

Introduction:

The Tower of Pisa – famous for its lean:

- Built on shallow foundations and swampy ground
- After three levels it started to lean – had the opportunity to undo and rebuild
- However it became popular and a money spinner – attractive, draws the crowds
- Unable to function as it was designed to - empty on the inside, all external and for show

Apostles and prophets are _____ layers.

They have the anointing and the power to decree God’s plans and purposes in the earth and to bring the eternal down from heaven and into the now.

God uses them to _____ and _____ everything that is not of Him and cause that which is out of alignment with His plans to become _____ and _____ again.

They literally are God’s instruments to _____ the body of Christ out of its apathy and slumber and cause a shift in the Spirit to set His church back on course.

The Counterfeit:

2 Corinthians 11:13 - 14

“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”

Revelation 2:2 (Talking about the Church at Ephesus)

*“I know your works, your labour, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those **who say they are apostles and are not, have found them liars.**”*

So how can we discern which is genuine and which is not?

Followers who are genuinely walking in the _____ of Him will usually recognise if they are or not.

We know them by their _____. True humility will be _____ as will agape love that doesn’t revile against those who oppose them.

In a false apostle _____, _____, _____, desires, and the lack of _____ are often clues. Most of all, something in our spirits can detect something’s not quite right. As they say, often the best way is to know the _____ article really well.

So let’s look at some of them:

1. A true Apostle has a Father’s heart

1 Corinthians 4:14 – 17

I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For thought you might have

ten thousand instructors in Christ, **yet you do not have many fathers**; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

A false apostle can have a _____ heart.

2. A true Apostle has a _____ dimension - called by God and not man (often the oddest choice)

Galatians 1:1

Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the father who raised Him from the dead),

Ephesians 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God.

1 Timothy 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Saviour and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope.

2 Timothy 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus.

Luke 6:12-13

Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles.

A false apostle is appointed by _____ to a _____ and carries a _____.

3. A true apostle has been _____ and _____ of themselves

1 Corinthians 15:31b Paul says "I die daily"

2 Corinthians 4:10 – 12

always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you.

2 Corinthians 1:9

Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises from the dead.

A false Apostle is one that _____ been through the _____.

4. A true Apostle knows what it is to _____ upon God and to _____ in Him

John 15:4 – 5

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches, He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears

much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

A false apostle is one that is _____ with building _____ works.

5. A true apostle sees from an _____ perspective and _____ the heavenly _____

Ephesians 3:1 – 5

Vs 5b "...as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets..."

A false apostle may have head knowledge of the Word but fails to _____ the life of the Christ.

6. A true _____ is patient and allows God to do the _____ people, knowing it can only be God doing it not themselves.

Psalms 127: 1a "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it..."

A false apostle will _____ change and _____.

7. A true apostle is not _____ – often misunderstood, persecuted, hated and ridiculed.

They are fools for Christ. *1 Cor 1:26 -31, 1 Cor 4:6 -13, 2 Cor 11:22 – 30*

A false apostle can make a _____ for themselves and have large _____.

8. A true apostle is prepared to count all thing _____ for the _____ of Christ

They let go of the past achievements and human endeavours to pursue Christ with everything they have.

Phil 3:12 – 16

A false apostle will _____ of their _____ for God and love the praises of men, particularly their peers.