

Being Apostolic People

There is a term 'apostolic' that is used to refer to those with the mantle of an apostle, of 'apostolic succession', 'apostolic church', and also to what is called 'apostolic people'. These terms need to be examined and explained so that they are used properly.

'Apostolic' is not a biblical word, even though 'apostle' is. 'Apostolic' does not appear in Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words. The term 'apostolic' comes from the Anglicised translation of the bible and appears in a few versions – e.g. “my apostolic authority”¹ in the ISV. It is an adjective that Christians use to identify something that has its basis in the things relating to an apostle.

'Apostolic succession', 'apostolic people' & 'apostolic people' are therefore non-biblical terms. They can't be because the descriptive adjective in the phrase is not biblical.

'**APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION**' is a Roman Catholic term used to reinforce their belief on the masses that their supreme leader (the pope, 'el papa') has received the anointing that Apostle Peter had through the succession of popes since the RC organisation began in the 2nd century. 'Apostolic succession' has no biblical or spiritual foundation and is a statement devised by institutional religion.

NOTE: Read “Is Apostolic Succession Biblical?”² for a good explanation of this error.

'**APOSTOLIC CHURCH**' is a term based on the Apostle's Creed where it states: “I believe in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church”. This creed comes from the RC system, even though it is recited by many protestant denominations. 'Apostolic church' is explained in the following summary of the RC catechism:

“Dear Brothers and Sisters: When we profess the Creed, we affirm that the Church is catholic and apostolic. The word catholic signifies that she is universal. This means that the Church is found everywhere and teaches the whole truth regarding the heavens and the earth.

The Church shows her catholicity by speaking all languages which is the effect of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit gave to the Apostles and the whole Church the gift of proclaiming the Good News of God's salvation and love to all, even to the ends of the earth.

The Church then is of her nature missionary, given to evangelization and encounter; that is, she is apostolic. Founded on the Apostles and in continuity with them, the Church is called to proclaim the Gospel to everyone, and to show the tenderness and power of God...

May we always live in solidarity with all of humanity, and never closed in on ourselves. May we go out, in communion with the Successors of the Apostles, to announce Christ and his love to all. And may we always be a sign of the Church our Mother: holy, catholic and apostolic.”³

So, this doesn't mean that the church is apostolic according to the RCs in the same sense that it is with the Christian groups that call themselves an apostolic church.

NOTE: Read “What is the Apostolic Church, and what do Apostolics believe?”⁴ for a good explanation of genuine modern apostolic Christianity.

'**APOSTOLIC PEOPLE**' is a term used by John Kingsley Alley in his book “The Apostolic Revelation”. The book is a valuable tool to release an important revelation for the restoration of genuine apostleship in Australia and worldwide.

1 – 1 Corinthians 9:2

2 – www.gotquestions.org/apostolic-succession.html

3 – “Pope explains the meaning behind 'Catholic and Apostolic' Church” [17-9-2014]

(www.romereports.com/2014/09/17/pope-explains-the-meaning-behind-catholic-and-apostolic-church)

4 – www.gotquestions.org/Apostolic-church.html

Watching John's teaching video⁵ on what it means to be an apostolic people has given rise to a number of points because he is still in the church system, despite his mighty revelation of the genuine apostolic:

1. John believes in apostolic succession, but not in the RC sense. He said that apostles produce a succession by laying hands on other novice apostles and releasing them to move out into the world – This is not succession, instead, it's apostolic reproduction. Apostles have the responsibility to raise others up for service in the Kingdom, including more apostles.
2. John appears to believe that the laying on of hands imparts the apostolic gift to the recipient – In reality, the apostolic ability is a gift given by the Spirit directly to a person. This is what can be called an 'apostolic mantle' and it will be given much earlier than the laying on of hands. In fact, a person's apostolic mantle manifests itself in their life so that others see it and recognise it. It's at this point that apostolic training (schooling, mentoring) can begin to raise them up into their posting. The laying on of hands is a blessing to go with them when they are released. This can be accompanied by other spiritual gifts⁶ which are released as the Spirit desires, not by man's declaration.
3. John bases the term 'apostolic people' on the fact that Jesus is our apostle⁷ – This may have come from genuine revelation, or it may have come from his intellect as a bible teacher of many years.
4. John states that Jesus was an apostle before the others were – This is true. If we apply the proper NT meaning of 'apostle' from the 1st century this is correct.⁸ It is also what the first church's believers understood 'apostle' to mean.
5. John stated that we are all to be apostolic people – This is correctly based on Jesus our apostle and his example to us as our prototype. Jesus was sent by Father to only do his will⁹ and to set up the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth as it was originally. This is what a Roman *apostolos* did. This is what we are also to do – through obedience to our King we work to re-establish The Kingdom on Earth. BTW: There is no biblical precedent to call all believers 'apostolic'.
6. John referred to submission as a freeing activity – Correct. Jack Frost¹⁰ stated something like this once on one of his CDs: “The freest place to be is in total submission”. Like a little child who totally depends on their parents for protection and for all their needs, surrendering to oversight in submission allows them to take all the burden and responsibility, while you relax and go about your life. It's very liberation. However, our independent spirit these days cannot comprehend the freedom that submission releases.
7. John supports submission to church leaders – This stance is dangerous as it has to be done in a Kingdom fashion. Firstly, there are no church leaders, only oversight (i.e. plural eldership & apostles). 'Leader' or 'leadership' are not NT terms, except when referring to Jewish leaders under Judaism. Jesus set in place serving, not leadership (ruling over) and this is the model we are to follow.¹¹ Paul wrote that his readers were to submit to “the household of Stephanas” and to “such, and to everyone who works and labours with us”. This is not a command to bow and scrape to them and let them lord over the believers. Nor is it to leaders, but submission to those (everyone) who serves in the Kingdom. Kingdom submission refers to getting under someone and supporting them by lifting them up to allow them to achieve their purpose in the ekklesia, the home¹² or society¹³. Paul also reinforced that we are to submit to each other¹⁴ – that doesn't mean being bossy.

5 – “Defining the Nature of the True Apostolic Church 2 - John Alley” (www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7VVjBqJUHc)

6 – 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6

7 – Hebrews 3:1

8 – Read “Apostolic Surrender” (canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Apostolic-Surrender.pdf)

9 – Read “Apostolic Surrender” (canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Apostolic-Surrender.pdf)

10 – Founder of Shiloh Place Ministries

11 – Matthew 20:25-26

12 – Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18

13 – 1 Peter 2:13; Romans 13:1

14 – Ephesians 5:21 (Also 1 Peter 5:5)

There is a lot for us to do to become an apostolic people, totally submitted to God. This is why it is critical to do what the Spirit is asking us to do and not 'our own thing'. This goes for daily life as well as our dreams and our destiny.

Being Spirit-led is not an option for apostolic people.

RESOURCES

- “Everyone is Apostolic - as an Apostolic People” – John Alley [2002]
(www.peace.org.au/apostolic/the-apostolic-revelation/everyone-is-meant-to-be-apostolic)
- “Defining an Apostolic People” video – John Alley [4th September 2016]
(www.peace.org.au/defining-an-apostolic-people)

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