

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

RLJ-1320

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PART 6: THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY

The term “five-fold ministry” has a bad connotation with people in the old mainline denominations in the United States. It was coined in the Charismatic movement dating back to the late 1960s, but in the letter to the Ephesians, Paul says there are five offices within the church of Jesus Christ. **Ephesians 4:11**

1. APOSTLE

The Greek word for apostle is “apostolos,” meaning “one sent forth.”

In the Gospel of Matthew we are told that the men Jesus selected would be called disciples and apostles. **Matthew 10:1-4**

Jesus sent them out to preach the Gospel. **verse 5**

In the Gospel of John we find out how Jesus selected some of the men, which eventually would be called apostles. **John 1:35-51**

After His resurrection, Jesus commissioned the remaining eleven disciples to be missionaries to the entire world. **Matthew 28:18-20**

In the beginning of the church at Jerusalem, the twelve apostles had taken it upon themselves to preach and teach the Word of God to the church members. **Acts 6:1-2**

Later the apostles evolved into leaders of the church in Jerusalem along with the elders. **Acts 15:6**

The apostle Paul literally carried out the commandment of Jesus as he traveled the Roman Empire, preached the Gospel and founded churches in city after city. **2 Corinthians 11:28**

The modern term for “apostle” would be “missionary,” who preaches the Gospel, plants churches and oversees the churches until they come of age and are able to govern themselves.

Any man that is preaching the Gospel and planting churches is entitled to call himself an apostle.

2. PROPHET

The Greek word for prophet is “prophetes,” meaning a “public expounder.”

There is a difference between the prophets of the Old Testament times and prophets in the New Testament times. The prophets prior to the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem were used by God to exhort, teach, rebuke and foretell the future and what they spoke was written down and was counted for Scripture.



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Prophets after the day of Pentecost will exhort, teach, rebuke and foretell the future, but it is not considered Scripture. After the Book of Revelation was given to the apostle John, there are no more revelations or prophecies from God that He wants added to the Bible. **2 Peter 1:14-21; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Revelation 22:18-19**

A New Testament prophet can be a man or a woman. **Acts 21:8-9**

A New Testament prophet can convey a message from God. **Acts 9:10-19**

A New Testament prophet can foretell the future. **Acts 21:10-11**

A prophet will expose sin. **Acts 5:1-11**

A prophet will be used to set apart Christian workers. **Acts 13:1-4**

Any believer in Christ can be used to prophecy when there is a need. **Acts 27:18-26**

There is a great need for prophets in our churches

3. EVANGELIST

The Greek word for evangelist is “evangelistes,” meaning “one announcing good news.”

Philip started out as a deacon (**Acts 6:1-6**) but ended up evangelizing in the city of Samaria. **Acts 8:5-8.**

He was given a prophetic word and went to evangelize the eunuch from Ethiopia. **Acts 8:26-40**

In time Philip was no longer considered a deacon but was called an evangelist. **Acts 21:8**

We are encouraged to do the work as an evangelist. **2 Timothy 4:5**

There is a huge demand for evangelists in the church

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?