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An Apostle of Christ

There are many who claim Apostle status.....so who is an Apostle?

Here are 12 points describing an Apostle:

1. An apostle is an ascension gift with a spiritual authority that extends beyond the local.
2. The Ascension gift is from the One who has led captivity captive and given gifts to men; this gift frees people, it doesn't bind them or control them. Ephesians 4: 7-11
3. Apostle-hood is godly Fatherhood that people rally to; people willingly recognise their covering and caring. It is not a leader gathering up churches to add to his kingdom.
4. It may be a leader who has or is planting churches or establishing a kingdom work that branches out through a large region, country or even the world. Examples would be Phil Pringle having planted and maintained an extensive work well beyond the local. Great ministers like Major Ian Thomas, Bob Pierce the founder of World Vision (a great kingdom visionary).
5. Of course as Paul points out in 2 Corinthians 11; not all apostles called apostles are apostles – they are opportunists who may become deceivers; even angels of light. Then he points out a real Apostle who will go through suffering for the sake of others.
6. An Apostle is only an Apostle to those who willingly come under their apostleship. 1Co 9:2 *"If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are you in the Lord."*
7. An apostle is called to be one by the Lord. 1 Co 1: 1 *"Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother."*
8. There are signs seen by their fruit: 2Co 12:12 *Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.*
9. There are minor and major apostles. Some were less known or had great fruit in a smaller field. Titus or Timothy wasn't an equal to Paul.
10. There were young apostles and women apostles: Romans 16:7 *"Greet Andronicus and Junias (Junia) my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was."* It has

been established that Junias was a woman, and her name me means youthful.
Possibly Priscilla was an apostle.

11. An Apostle must have the truth, faith and godliness. Tit 1:1 *“Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;”*
12. Also he must be a genuine servant of God and others: 2 Pe 1: 1 *“Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us.”*

John Walton ...pastor

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