

Signs of an Apostle

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 12:11-13:4.

B. Paul has been forced to compare his record with false Apostles.

II. Marks of a true Apostle. (Mark 16)

A. Casting out demons.

B. Speaking in other tongues.

C. Taking up serpents without harm.

D. Healing others.

III. The mark of a true servant of Christ is the ability to say that one is not inferior in Christ but also that one is nothing relying on oneself.

IV. There was no need for other Apostles to come in because they fulfilled their task in laying the foundation--the true Apostle must be accompanied by authenticating signs.

V. The Apostle gives himself as a selfless parent--the true Apostle gives himself without restraint to those he is ministering.

VI. A true Apostle is only answerable to God and not to the congregation.

VII. The true Apostle deals in the power of God not human manipulation.

A. This power is in reference to the ability of God to change the human heart.

B. Paul may be referring here to the process of addressing problems within the church. (Matthew 18)

Application questions:

1. What are the marks of a true Apostle? Which one stands out to you?

2. Why is there no longer a need for Apostles today? What takes their place as the "foundation?"

3. In what ways are we to model the way Apostles made an impact on others? In what ways should the common believer not expect to follow in an Apostle's example? Explain.
