

# WHAT IS AN APOSTLE?

## I. DEFINITION:

A. GREEK - ADMIRAL

B. ROMAN – GENERAL/GOVERNOR

1. Conquer new territory for the King.
2. Rule it on behalf of the King.
3. Make it Roman like the King.
4. Bring it into the Empire.

C. MODEL — ALEXANDER THE GREAT (MACEDONIA)

1. Conquered
2. Created an *Ekklesia*
3. Goal:
  - Govern for Macedonia.
  - Teach *koine* Greek – Speak.
  - Establish Greek Values and Culture.
  - Bring it into the Kingdom.

D. JESUS HIMSELF TOOK OVER THIS SECULAR/MILITARY WORD AND IDEA AND “CHRISTIANIZED” THEM.

1. KEYS: MATTHEW 10:1-2A, 5

<sup>1</sup> “And when He had called His twelve disciples to *Him*, He gave them power *over* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.<sup>2</sup> Now the names of the twelve apostles are these:”

<sup>5</sup> “These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.”

- Disciples — *mathetes* — disciplined
- Power — *exousia* — authority
- Commanded — *diatasso* — set in order (See Matthew 11:1)

2. Matthew 28:18-20 — “Great Commission”

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

- Power — *exousia* — authority
- Go

## II. WHAT IS HIS RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER 5-FOLD MINISTRIES?

### A. I CORINTHIANS 12:28 — THE GOVERNMENT PASSAGE ON 5-FOLD (CF. EPHESIANS 4:11)

“And God has set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.” (KJV)

1. Church — *ekklesia*
2. Set — *tithemi* — incontrovertible
3. First — *protos* - foundation
4. Secondarily — *deuteros* – set (on apostle)
  - Note: Adverb modifies set, not prophet.
5. Thirdly — *tritos* — set on apostle and prophet
  - Anointings are of equal value; placement is subordinated. e.g. — Trinity

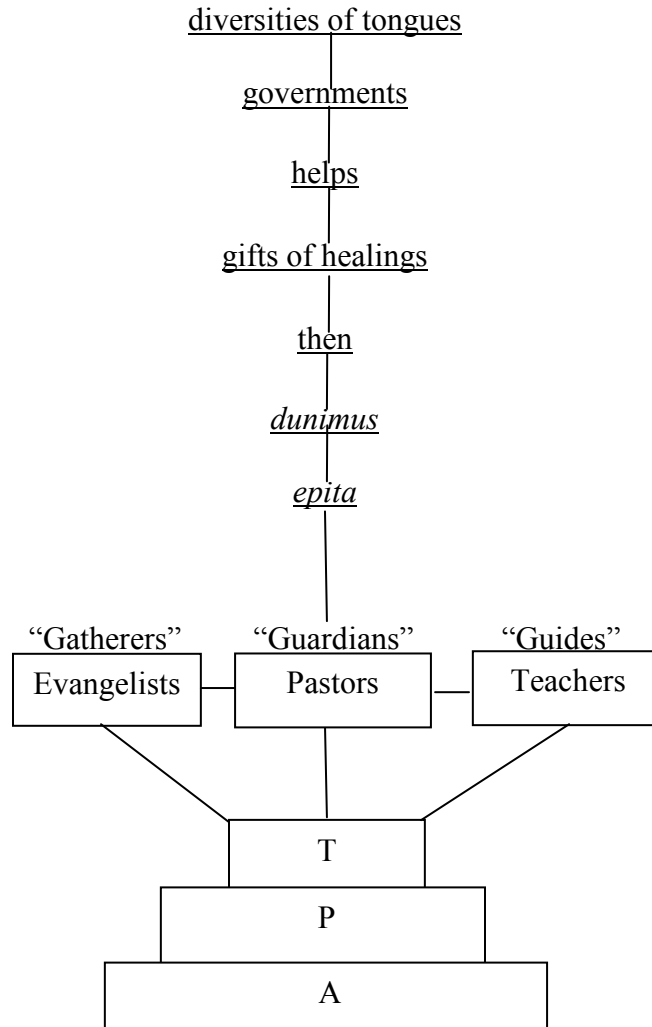
### B. EPHESIANS 4:11

“And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.”

- Note: Here the 5-fold are given in keeping with the Trinitarian formula.

C. COMBINE — I CORINTHIANS 12:28 AND EPHESIANS 4:11

**Word-picture of an Apostolic Church**



### III. STAGES OF APOSTOLIC DEVELOPMENT

