



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017

THE PATTERN-PASSERS

A study in the uncomfortable topic of modern-day apostles



The Triumvirate of the Word of God

- The Word of God in Text
- The Word of God in Person
- The Word of God in Action

How One Treats The Word of God in Text Defines How They Treat the Word of God in Person and Action

The Three Positions

An Apostle

Apostolos – a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders, a sent one

To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,

*These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. **And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars . . .***

Revelation 2:1-2

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1 John 4:1

Introducing “The Five-Fold Ministry” Reasoning

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "*When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.*" . . . And **He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers**, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.

Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-15

The Awkward Introduction of Modern Apostles to the Mix

The N.A.R. movement

An Apostle

It's a fairly illustrious title

Throughout the past two thousand years, even the greatest, most amazing Christian leaders have not assumed the title *apostle*. Athanasius did not presume such a title. Waldo, Luther, Wesley, and Whitefield did not assume the title apostle. Charles Spurgeon, Hudson Taylor, William Booth, and C.T. Studd, all men that changed the face of Christianity and modern missions in their day all did not presume themselves apostles. Even Billy Graham, the modern equivalent of Wesley and Whitefield shied away from such a grand title of apostle and instead bore the title *reverend*.

So, Why the Confusion?

Because there are "Apostles" and there are "apostles"

The Anatomy of a Capital "A" Apostle

Moses Received a Pattern to Pass

According to all that I show thee, **after the pattern** of the tabernacle, and **the pattern** of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it (Exodus 25:9) . . . And look that thou

make them **after their pattern**, which was showed thee in the mount (Exodus 25:40) . . . And thou shalt rear up the tabernacle **according to the fashion** thereof which was showed thee in the mount (Exodus 26:30) . . . Hollow with boards shalt thou make it: **as it was showed thee** in the mount, so shall they make it (Exodus 27:8) . . . And this work of the candlestick was of beaten gold, unto the shaft thereof, unto the flowers thereof, was beaten work: **according unto the pattern** which the LORD had showed Moses, so he made the candlestick (Numbers 8:4) . . . Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it **according to the fashion** that he had seen (Acts 7:44) . . . Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, see, saith He, that thou make all things **according to the pattern** showed to thee in the mount (Hebrews 8:5).

David Received a Pattern to Pass

Then David gave to Solomon his son **the pattern** of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlors thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat, And the pattern of all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things . . . All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of **this pattern**.

1 Chronicles 28:11-12, 18-19

The Prophets Received a Pattern to Pass

Then Micaiah said . . . **I saw the LORD** sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left.

1 Kings 22:19

In the year that King Uzziah died, **I saw the Lord** sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.

Isaiah 6:1

I saw the Lord standing by the altar . . .

Amos 9:1

Ezekiel Received a Pattern to Pass

Thou son of man, **show the house** to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern.

Ezekiel 43:10

A Pattern-Passer

One who sees the Pattern of the House and then is Responsible to Pass Along that Pattern so that it might be built

What Did They See?

They saw a God-House, a Place in which the Spirit of God Lives



Jesus Declared that He IS that God-House!

Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of **the temple of His body**. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

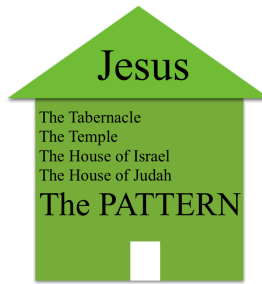
John 2:19-22

The Apostle John Declared that Jesus WAS/IS the Pattern of the God-House Made Flesh

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

They All Saw Jesus!



The New Testament Pattern-Passers

They are known as Apostles

The Apostle Peter

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were **eyewitnesses of His majesty**.

2 Peter 1:16

The Apostle John

That which was from the beginning, which **we have heard**, which **we have seen with our eyes**, which **we have looked upon**, and **our hands have handled**, concerning the Word of life—

1 John 1:1

The Apostle Paul

Then last of all **He was seen by me also** . . . For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

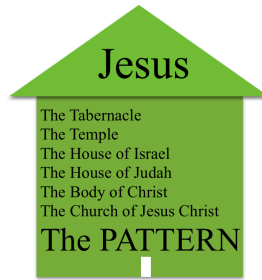
1 Corinthians 15:8-9

They Saw the Pattern for the Perfect House

And then were sent forth to pass along the Pattern and to build it up

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22



What Exactly Makes a Capital “A” Apostle a Capital “A” Apostle?

A Capital “A” Apostle

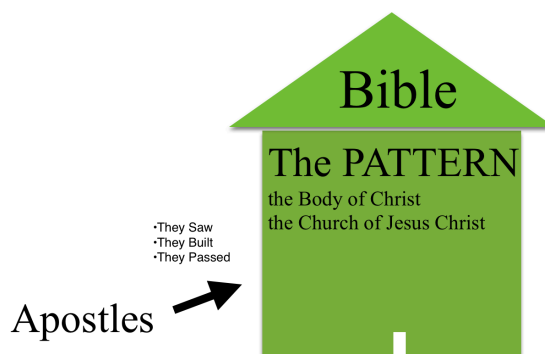
Eyewitnesses to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Men who saw the Perfect House. Men personally “sent out” by Jesus Christ to be the Pattern-Passers.

They saw and then built what they saw

These Pattern-Passers were simply known as “Apostles of Jesus Christ” with a capital “A”

Paul . . . called to be an apostle (Rom 1:1) . . . called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God (1 Corinthians 1:1) . . . an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God (2 Corinthians 1:1) . . . an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God (Eph 1:1) . . . an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God (Colossians 1:1) . . . an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Tim 1:1) . . . an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God (2 Tim 1:1) . . . an apostle of Jesus Christ (Titus 1:1) . . .

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:1) . . . a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:1)



Who Were These Pattern-Passers?

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that **He was seen** by Peter, then by the twelve. After that **He was seen** by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that **He was seen** by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all **He was seen by me also**, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

1 Corinthians 15:3-9

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, **being seen by them** during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:1-3

Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Revelation 21:14

These Capital “A” Apostles seemed to be God’s chosen vehicles to Governmentally establish the form and function of the Church and to establish the Canon Test for the Church moving forward in order that it might test every spirit and approve that which is right and correct. They set up the Pattern by which all other building might be measured from thereon out.

A small “a” apostle

To explain a small “a” apostle . . .

It is first necessary to further show how the Capital “A” Apostles functioned as Pattern-Passers

Fact #1: In the First Century, the Capital “A” Apostles were in Charge of the Churches

It was initially the Word of the Apostles and the Word of Prophecy as revealed to and/or approved by the Apostles of Jesus Christ that governed the early Church, built the early Church, protected them from error, and steered them toward the glory of Jesus Christ

Fact #2: The Capital “A” Apostles Supplied us the Approved Scriptures

The Capital “A” Apostles were inspired by the Spirit of God to write and/or approve the inspired writing of the New Testament Scriptures which outlined and clearly established the method for governing the Church of Jesus Christ moving forward into the forthcoming generations. They gave us the Canon test. They showed us how the House of God, The Church, ought to be built. They saw the Pattern, and then passed it along to us.

They Saw, They Built, They Passed

Hold fast **the pattern** of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:13

And **the things that you have heard from me** among many witnesses, **commit these to faithful men** who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:2

So, What Did the Capital “A” Apostles say about there being more “apostles?”

They seem to indicate that there will, indeed, be those who are “apostles” in the Church even after the Capital “A” Apostles finish passing along the Pattern

And **He Himself gave some to be apostles** . . . till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:7-8

Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: **first apostles**, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

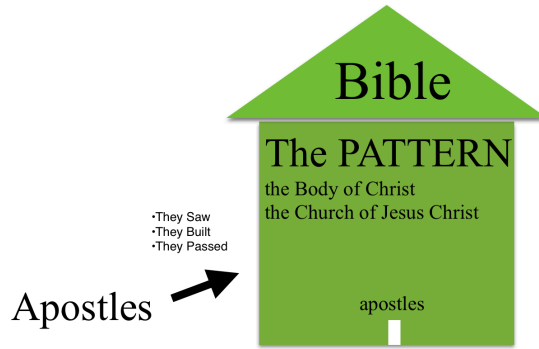
So, what about a small “a” apostle?

The Capital “A” Apostles DO, in fact, talk about more apostles in the church outside of themselves. And it appears that these “apostles” are needed in the Church for it to succeed and are uniquely gifted and equipped for their work by God Himself. However, these apostles are not like the Capital “A” Apostles, with authority over the global Church and with unique position to lay out the original form and function of the Church. They are not eyewitnesses of Jesus’ death, burial, resurrection, and current glorified condition. They were not present with Jesus in the first century when He was here on earth in bodily form to give the Capital “A” Apostles their “sending commission” straight from Him personally. And they are not recipients of the words of new Scripture and authoritative Canon text. These “apostles” that the Capital “A” Apostles seem to be referring to are small “a” apostles. They are apostles gifted, by the Holy Spirit, to build up the church. **To receive the Pattern from the Pattern-Passers and effectively implement it.** They are “sent ones” that go into all the world to preach the Gospel and establish churches in perfect agreement with the Pattern that was Passed. But they are “sent ones” that are sent by the Church, not directly by Jesus Christ.

These apostles, in question, are not the Capital “A” Apostles of Jesus Christ

They are not Pattern-Passers, but Pattern-Implementers

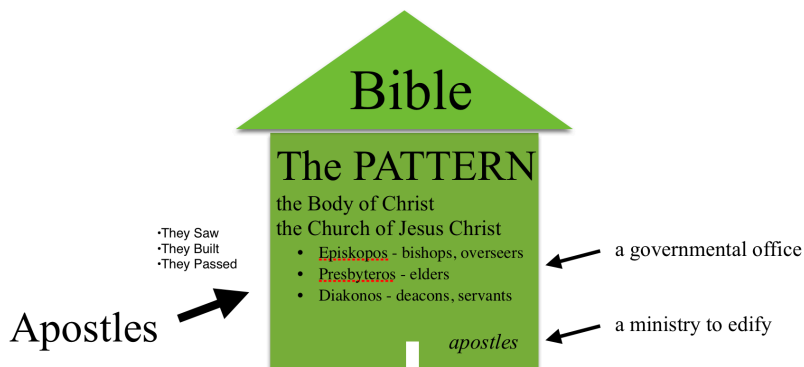
And we desperately need this kind of small “a” apostles in our modern day. They are often referred to, in the modern church vernacular, as missionaries and church planters. They are, indeed, men functioning as “apostles,” but not with capital “A” authority to write Scripture and to be a Pattern-Passer, but they are apostles with small “a” gifting, commissioned to effectively spread, the world-over, the Pattern that was Passed, as revealed in Scripture for building the Church. These sort of small “a” apostles are not super-governors of the church at large as were Paul and Peter in the first century, but are now men and women submitted to local church authority who received their ordination from the local church through the laying on of hands.



A Look at the Pattern Passed by the Capital “A” Apostles for Healthy Church Governance

- Episkopos - bishops, overseers
- Presbyteros - elders
- Diakonos - deacons, servants

Strangely, appointing apostles and prophets for the purpose of Church government is never mentioned in the Pattern that was Passed to us in the New Testament



So, how does this affect us today?

- We need to realize we are not in the capital “A” or capital “P” period of the Church, but are in the period of building up the Church according to the Pattern as shown us in the Scriptures.
- We are no less empowered to do our work than were the Capital “A” Apostles.
- But, we are constrained to build according to an existing pattern. It’s called the Scriptures. For the Holy Spirit will never build anything contrary to the Scriptures.

- The Days of the Pattern-Passers has ceased.
- The Day of the Pattern-Defenders, Pattern-Implementers, and Pattern-Champions is in full stride.
- And we need small “a” apostles in order to properly defend, implement, and champion this beautiful and almighty Pattern

Ellerslie Mission Society

Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: **first apostles** . . . But earnestly desire the best gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:27, 31

We are seeking the best gifts here in Windsor, Colorado. So, we are desiring to be “sent ones.”

We desire to be equipped, and to equip all of you as “sent ones” that go into all the world and preach the Gospel

But to be ready for such a grand title as a “sent one” we must first be one considered “ready to be sent.”

Who Decides When One is Ready?

Good News: The Pattern has been Passed along to us!

- There is a Pattern for testing and approving Bishops, Elders, and Deacons (1Timothy 3:1-13)
- If the Man is going to build the House of God, then He first must know how to rule His own house. He can’t be a beginner at this building thing, but be a proven handler of the Pattern.

There is a Palpable Distortion in our Modern-Day Regarding “The Sent Ones”

But, The Best Way to Protect the Pattern Passed Along to us, is to Follow it Ourselves

Esteem the Pattern Passed to us

Protect the Pattern Passed to us

Employ the Pattern Passed to us

*Be corrected by the Pattern Passed to us
Be built after the Pattern Passed to us
Pass along the Pattern Passed to us*

Do you not know that you and I, as Believers, are that God-House?

You are the temple of the living God.

2 Corinthians 6:16

No, we are NOT God

But, we ARE the Dwelling Place of God

As God has said:

“I will dwell in them

And walk among them.

I will be their God,

And they shall be My people.”

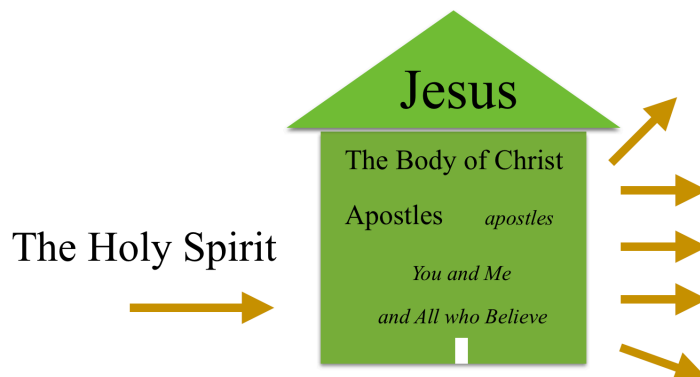
2 Corinthians 6:16

And just as Jesus was the Word of God in personable, actionable form

*So, He has given us His Holy Spirit that we might be the very personable expression of
Jesus Christ to this World, the House of God in loving action*

You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.

2 Corinthians 3:2-3



Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honor than the house. For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

Hebrews 3:1-6