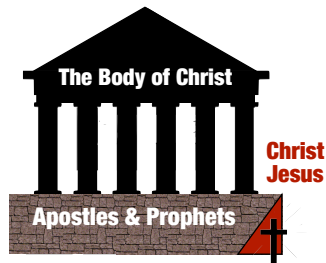


Paul was a Foundation Apostle.

Ephesians 2:20-21

“having been built on the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the **cornerstone**, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy **temple** in the Lord.”



Characteristics of the Foundation Apostles

An eyewitness to the resurrected Jesus

Acts 1:21-22

“Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us - beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us - one of these must become a **witness with us of His resurrection.**”

1 Corinthians 9:1

“Am I not an apostle? **Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?** Are you not my work in the Lord?”

Signs and wonders

2 Corinthians 12:12

“The **signs of a true apostle were performed among you** with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.”

Fruitfulness in ministry

1 Corinthians 9:1

“Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? **Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?** **Are you not my work in the Lord?**”

The New Testament record suggests Two types of Apostles

Foundation APOSTLES

only twelve (Paul)

- Eyewitness to Resurrected Christ
- Special Signs

Foundation
of the church

Rev.21:14; 1 Cor.9:1;
Acts 1:21-22

Maintenance apostles

many (Barnabas)

Pioneers
of ministry

Acts 14:14;
1 Cor.12:28-29

2 Corinthians 12

“¹¹ I have become foolish; you yourselves compelled me. Actually I should have been commended by you, for in no respect was I inferior to the most eminent apostles, even though I am a nobody. ¹² The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles. ¹³ For in what respect were you treated as inferior to the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not become a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong!”

Paul's self-image

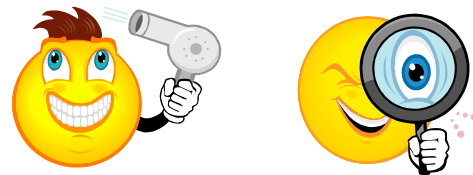
**“in no respect
inferior to the
most eminent”**

“a nobody”

The path to spiritual significance in life



Healthy self-image is not
about feeling good about how
we look



so much as it is about seeing
clearly who we are.

Romans 12

“, I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

We can think *too little* of ourselves.

For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you **not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think**; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

We can think *too much* of ourselves.

Our self-image shapes our behavior.



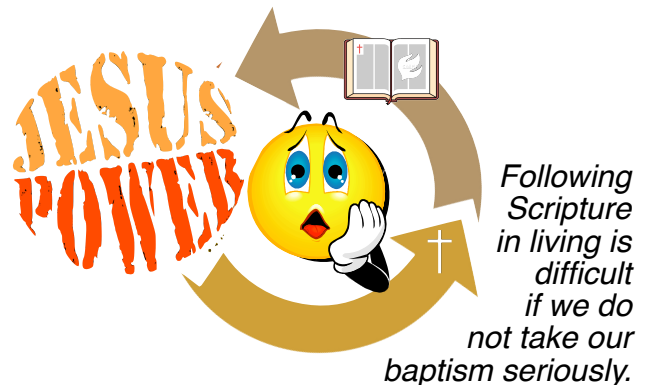
The central ministry of the Holy Spirit is to show us:

- 1) Jesus,
- 2) ourselves apart from Christ and “in Christ.”



God’s peace and power are found on the far side of a clear perception of God, His creation, and ourselves as His image bearers.

Following Jesus involves both strategic and tactical commitments.



Self-image inventory

1. How much energy goes into establishing and **protecting** “YOUR false image?”
2. How free are you to **risk** personal comfort, reward, and misunderstanding in loving others?
3. How **objective** and **open** are you about your strengths and weaknesses?
4. How **comfortable** are you with your roles?
5. Can you minister with a **humble boldness**?

Self-image makeover

1. Start with the assumption that **Satan** is trying to distort our self-image.
2. **Jesus** shows us what it is like to be authentically human.
3. Image makeover is the central ministry of the **Holy Spirit**.
4. The worst **lies** we tell are those we tell to ourselves.
5. The way we talk to others is a very big part of Christian **ethics**.