

is found when Jesus commissions his envoys: the work which they have to do is ultimately His work, for He sends them, and He Himself is their strength and bears their burden.

The ground of New Testament apostleship as a whole is to be found in the will and commission of the risen Lord. A "false apostle" (2 Cor. 11:13) is one who gives himself out as an apostle of Christ without having His authorization. Paul is the classical example of a New Testament apostle. His call to apostleship came as a break in his life which he compared to the coming of light at the Creation (2 Cor. 4:6), something beyond human attainment, arising solely from the eternal will of God, to which he surrendered himself in his encounter with the risen Lord.

This examination of apostleship admirably clarifies the issues and makes a valuable contribution to the debate on "Apostolic Succession." It shows that apostleship in its essence is not an office, but a function, and in its New Testament sense is limited to the first generation. It was bestowed not by one apostle upon another, but directly by the risen Lord Himself, in Whom the apostle's authority resides.

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