

When You Subtract the Prophets and Apostles

- A. *"I...urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the _____ to which you have been called"* (Eph 4:1).
1. Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places is available in Christ (1:3).
 2. We should be holy and blameless before him (1:4).
 3. In love our heavenly Father predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ (1:5-6).
 4. We have redemption through the blood of Christ, the forgiveness of our trespasses (1:7-8).
 5. God has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose (1:9-10).
- B. *"...eager to maintain the _____ of the Spirit in the bond of peace"* (Eph 4:2-16).
1. By God's design, there is (4:4-6):
 - a. One body
 - b. One Spirit
 - c. One hope
 - d. One Lord
 - e. One faith
 - f. One baptism
 - g. One God and Father of all
 2. In accordance with the purpose of his will, he gave (4:11):
 - a. The apostles
 - b. The prophets
 - c. The evangelists
 - d. The shepherds
 - e. The teachers
 3. *"...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ"* (4:12-16).
- C. But what happens when you _____ the apostles and prophets?

I. The God-Designed Role of the Apostles and Prophets

- A. *"...the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets"* (Eph 2:19-22).
1. The prophets made " _____ " as spokesmen *"from God"* (2 Pet 1:21; 3:1-2a).
 2. The apostles delivered " _____ " of *"the Lord and Savior"* (2 Pet 3:2a-18).
- B. God made his will known by revelation to the prophets and apostles (Eph 3:1-5).
1. Evangelists, shepherds, and teachers have used the revelation of his will ever since to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ (Eph 4:11-12).
 2. ...until we all attain to the unity of the faith (Eph 4:13, 4-6).

II. When You Subtract the Apostles and Prophets...

- A. The _____ of the household of God is removed.
- B. We are left with evangelists, shepherds, and teachers; but whose _____?
- C. Human cunning, craftiness, and deceitful schemes are _____ into the equation.
- D. Saints of God are _____ to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine.