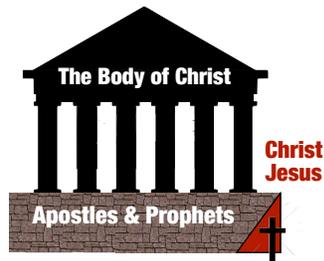


Paul was a Foundation Apostle.

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

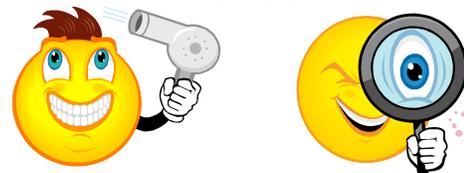
“in no respect inferior to the most eminent”

“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.



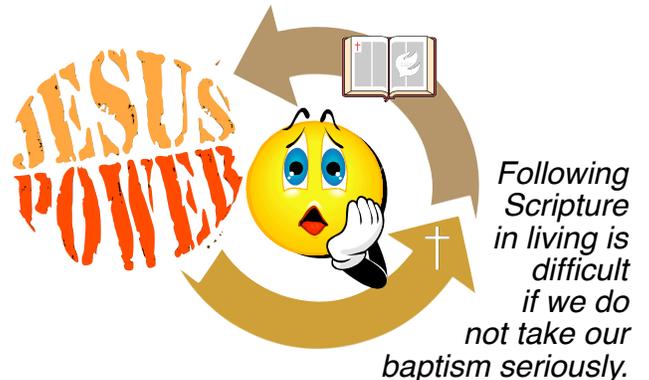
The central ministry of the Holy Spirit is to show us:

- 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**.