

Doctrine of Lying Apostles

1. In the church of Ephesus, according to Revelation 2:2 the Lord commended the congregation because they had tested “*them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars.*” Not only is it proper to test the credentials of someone trying to speak with authority, it is essential.

2. There were, and are, several specific tests to apply to validate the ministry of a true apostle.
 - An apostle is a man who has been appointed by God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
 - ❖ God the Son. *Mark 3:14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach...Mark 6:30 And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.*
 - ❖ God the Father. *1 Corinthians 4:9 For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.*
 - ❖ God the Holy Spirit. *1 Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*
 - An apostle is a person who has been an eye witness of the resurrection. *1 Corinthians 9:1 Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are not ye my work in the Lord? 2 If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.*
 - An apostle is a person who has been with Jesus, or at least has been familiar with the ministry of Christ from beginning to end. *Acts 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) 16 Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. 17 For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. 18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. 19 And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood. 20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.*

21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. 23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. 24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, 25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. 26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles. John 15: 27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning

- An apostle is invested with unusual spiritual power, to the extent that he can perform miracles. *Mark 3:14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, 15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils: Acts 2:43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.*
 - An apostle is one whose teachings do not contradict what has been taught by the other apostles, or by what has been written in the *Scriptures*. *2 Peter 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*
3. Any person seeking to establish spiritual authority within the church, in any age, must meet these biblical qualifications, or be branded a liar.