

Why Is Apostolic Authority so Important?

This session will discuss the role of apostolic authority in laying down the foundations of the church, creating the documents of the New Testament Scriptures, and serving as a reference point for the rule of faith. This authority is especially important to understand when disagreeing with theological liberals and Roman Catholics. Why is this authority reliable? Why does the doctrine of apostolic succession contradict it?

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I. Does the Church Have a Foundation?

A. The Roman Catholic Challenge

B. Liberal Challenges

II. The Apostolic Foundation

A. New Testament Evidence

B. Evidence of the Fathers

C. Rule of Faith

D. New Testament Canon

III. Is The Apostolic Foundation Reliable?

A. Historical Evidence

B. Theological Arguments

Suggested Readings:

- A. J. Köstenberger & M. J. Kruger, *The Heresy of Orthodoxy* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010)
- H. Ridderbos, *Redemptive History and the New Testament Scriptures* (Philipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1963)
- B. Gerhardsson, *The Reliability of Gospel Tradition* (Peabody, MA: Hendrikson, 2001)
- B. Gerhardsson, *Memory and Manuscript: Oral Tradition and Written Transmission in Rabbinic Judaism and Early Christianity* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998)
- Hans F. Bayer, *Apostolic Bedrock: Christology, Identity, and Character Formation According to Peter's Canonical Testimony* (Paternoster Press, 2016)
- R. Bauckham, *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses: The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2006)
- P. Balla, *Challenges to New Testament Theology: An Attempt to Justify the Enterprise* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1997)
- M. Kruger, *Canon Revisited* (Wheaton IL: Crossway, 2012)
- J. Stott, *The Message of 2 Timothy* (Leicester, UK: IVP, 2013)