

Clement of Rome “The apostles received the gospel for us from the Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus the Christ was sent forth [apestalmenos] from God. So then Christ is from God, and the apostles are from Christ.”

The church's mission is not an ideology or a system of religious principles, but a person: Jesus Christ, who is to be known, loved and imitated.

Pope John Paul II
Redemptoris Missio (1990)

The core of the apostolic is this:

1. The presence of Christ
2. The truth of Christ
3. The virtues of Christ
4. The power of Christ

- Colossians 1:19ff
- Ephesians 1:22-23
- Ephesians 3:18-19
- Ephesians 4:13
- Colossians 2:9-12

Christ has promised to be present to us

1. In individuals; “Christ in you the hope of glory”
2. In His body (His corporate presence); “you are the body of Christ”
3. In the sacraments, and
4. In the preaching of His Word.

For NCCs:

- A. The Bible is the church's earliest authoritative document. It is Scripture.
- B. Most of us are “pimitivist” in our perspectives.
- C. We are generally suspicious of institutional approaches.

AD 100

The New Testament (AD 40-95)
Clement (AD 95)
The Didache (AD 70-90)

The Shepherd of Hermas (AD 100-130)
Polycarp (AD 110-130)
Ignatius (AD 107-115)

<u>The local church</u>	1. Elders/Bishops Overseers 2. Deacons
<u>Extra Local</u>	Apostles, Prophets, Teachers

<u>The local church</u>	Bishop Elders Deacons
<u>Extra Local</u>	Bishop? Apostles, Prophets, Teachers?

Maximalist view (M.V.) is the belief that there is an unbroken chain of Bishops ordaining Bishops from St. Peter in Rome to the present.

Continuance view (C.V.) is the continuance of the apostolic message and the preservation of the apostolic church regardless of its ecclesiology.

The Episcopate (Ortlund).

1. The episcopate is from the first century and divine.
2. The episcopate is a later development and divine.
3. The episcopate is a later development and good/acceptable, but not divine.
4. The episcopate is a later development and wrong.