

05 • Servants Through Whom We Believe

There was a time when the apostles weren't very mature. [Mark 9:33-34](#) records one instance when they "argued with one another about who was the _____." But they **grew** and have been powerfully used by God to help **disciples** of **Jesus** grow for centuries.

In [1 Corinthians 3:1-9](#), the apostle Paul also describes some Christians as not very mature. **Why?**

For while there is _____ and _____ among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human? ([3:3-4](#))

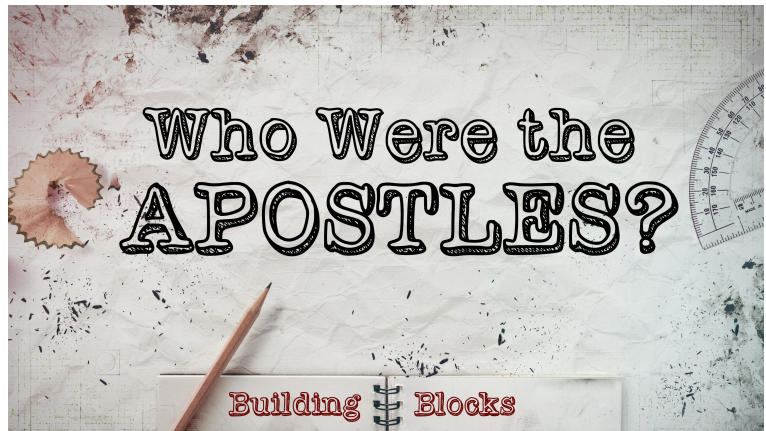
How should we think of the apostles?

_____ through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ([3:5](#); [4:1](#))

And then, in [1 Corinthians 4:6](#), we find out just how relevant this whole discussion is to **us**:

I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that _____ may learn by us not to go _____ what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another.

The apostles lived a very long time ago, but that is no obstacle to God's plan for **us**. We would still "do well to pay attention" to the words of the apostles and prophets ([2 Pet 1:16-19](#)). We would still "do well" to be "devoted" to the "apostles' teaching," just like the earliest Christians ([Acts 2:42](#)). Why? Because whenever and wherever we are, when we read the God-breathed words delivered to us through those apostles, we can "_____ " their "insight into the mystery of Christ" ([Eph 3:1-5](#)).



For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ Why have people—even disciples of Jesus—found it very tempting for a very long time to argue about who is the greatest?
- ▶ What are we missing when we engage in those sorts of arguments today?
- ▶ We may not hear people say today, "I follow Paul," or, "I follow Apollos," but how might we still fall into the same trap? And why is it a big deal?
- ▶ In your own words, how would you summarize Paul's point in [1 Corinthians 3:7](#)?
- ▶ Practically speaking, what does it look like to "go beyond what is written" ([1 Cor 4:6](#))?
- ▶ The earliest Christians were "devoted" to the "apostles' teaching" ([Acts 2:42](#)). Why is that important? What might that look like for us today?
- ▶ What is Paul communicating in [Ephesians 3:4](#)?
- ▶ According to [Ephesians 3:5](#), why should we be incredibly thankful for what we have?