THE QUESTION

Is a church apostolic if it has succession but drops the apostles' teaching?

Asked by a THF member on April 10, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 9 numbered quotations · the 55 early Christian passages and 207 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/is-a-church-apostolic-if-it-has-succession-but-drops-the-apostles-teaching

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

No. These early writers did not treat a line of bishops as enough by itself. Tertullian and Irenaeus said succession must come with the apostles' own teaching, and that different teaching shows a group is not apostolic. They also kept strict teaching on marriage, head covering and idols, while still valuing proper ordination.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

IN THIS STUDY

1	A bishop list is tested by doctrine	2	6	Women were to keep their heads covered	4
2	Faithful leaders have succession and truth	2	7	Making and worshiping idols was forbidden	5
3	The Church includes those firm in faith	3		What these passages don't tell us	5
4	Church offices came by proper ordination	3		The Sources: 55 early Christian passages and 207 Bible verses, with links	5
5	Remarriage after divorce was called adultery	4			

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

POINT 1 OF 7

A bishop list is tested by doctrine

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian asks churches to show a line of bishops reaching back to the apostles. But he adds that even such a list would not help a group whose teaching differs from the apostles. The teaching itself shows where a group comes from.

1

"Let them unfold the list of their bishops, coming down in proper succession from the beginning, in such a way that their first bishop can show that his ordainer and predecessor was one of the apostles or one of the apostolic men, and moreover, a man who remained faithful with the apostles."

later in the same passage

"For when their doctrine is compared with the doctrine of the apostles, its very difference and opposition will show by itself that its author was neither an apostle nor an apostolic man."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Prescription Against Heretics* 32 (c. 196–220 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 20, page 7 Read it in the library ›

POINT 2 OF 7

Faithful leaders have succession and truth

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus tells believers to obey presbyters who have both the succession from the apostles and the gift of truth. He also warns against those who break away and set up meetings on their own.

2

"Therefore, it is necessary to obey the presbyters in the Church—those who, as I have shown, possess the succession from the apostles; those who, along with the succession of the episcopate, have received the certain gift of truth, according to the good pleasure of the Father."

later in the same passage

"But it is also necessary to be wary of others who depart from this original succession and gather themselves anywhere, viewing them as heretics with perverse minds, schismatics who are arrogant and self-serving, or as hypocrites acting for gain or vanity."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 15, page 6 Read it in the library ›

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

POINT 3 OF 7

The Church includes those firm in faith

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian says the Church rests on its bishop and clergy and on all who stand firm in the faith. He refuses to let a group of fallen-away believers call themselves the Church.

3

"Since this is founded on divine law, I am amazed that some, with reckless boldness, have chosen to write to me as if they were writing in the name of the Church, when the Church is established in the bishop and the clergy, and in all who stand firm in the faith."

later in the same passage

"Far be it from the mercy of God and His unlimited power to allow the number of the lapsed to be called the Church, since it is written, "God is not the God of the dead, but of the living,""

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 33, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**

THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Church offices came by proper ordination

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Apostolic Constitutions says sacred duties are given by the laying on of a bishop's hands, and no one should take them for himself. Each person is told to stay in the rank given to him.

4

"For no one takes this honor for himself, but only he who is called by God, as Hebrews 5:4 says. Such sacred duties are given through the laying on of the bishop's hands."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 41, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**

THF's updated English

5

"Now this is what we all together charge you: let each one remain in the rank appointed to him, and do not go beyond his proper bounds."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 38, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**

THF's updated English

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

POINT 5 OF 7

Remarriage after divorce was called adultery

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian repeats Christ's warning that marrying a divorced woman is adultery. Athenagoras goes further and says Christians were content with one marriage, even calling a second marriage a hidden adultery.

6 “But another reason, too, combines with this; no, not another, but one that imposed the law from the beginning and moved the will of God to forbid divorce: whoever dismisses his wife, except on the ground of adultery, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman dismissed by her husband, of course commits adultery.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Monogamy* 9 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 26, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

7 “For we give our attention, not to the study of words, but to the showing and teaching of actions: that a person should either remain as he was born, or be content with one marriage. For a second marriage is only a specious adultery.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Athenagoras,** *A Plea for the Christians* 33 (c. 170–190 AD) **Source 12, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Women were to keep their heads covered

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Chrysostom reads Paul as telling women to be covered, and not only during prayer. He contrasts this with men, who are told not to cover their heads when they pray.

8 “But he commands the woman to be covered at all times.”

later in the same passage

“He means that she ought to be covered not only at the time of prayer, but continually also.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **John Chrysostom,** *Homilies on First Corinthians* 26 (c. 386–407 AD) **Source 54, page 9** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

POINT 7 OF 7

Making and worshiping idols was forbidden

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian says God forbids both making idols and worshiping them. He says images of created things are idols, and setting them apart for worship is idolatry.

9

"God forbids an idol to be made just as much as He forbids it to be worshiped."

later in the same passage

"Therefore, human error worships everything except the Creator Himself. The images of those things are idols. The consecration of the images is idolatry."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Idolatry* 4 **Source 25, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 196–220 AD)
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don't tell us

- These passages do not say what believers should do if no church with succession keeps the apostles' teaching.
- They do not rank which teachings matter most when judging a church.
- They do not say how these early rules apply to every modern use of images.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 55 early Christian passages and 207 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–55, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 56–105, in Bible order), then 157 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *55 passages from 16 writers*

Aristides, *c. 125–140 AD · sources 1–2*

1 *Apology* 15 (1885 English; on point 7) “of the food which is consecrated to idols they do not eat, for they are pure… [continues online] **read ›**

2 *Apology* 3 (on point 7) elements and began to worship created things instead of their Creator. For this purpose they made images and shut them up in shrines, and look, they worship them while guarding… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 3–5*

3 *First Apology* (1885 English; on point 5) shall marry her that is divorced from another husband, committeth adultery… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 7) “am the Lord God; this is my name: my glory will I not give to another, nor my virtues to graven images… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English) “they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into sickles: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more… [continues online] **read ›**

Minucius Felix, *c. 150–270 AD · source 6*

6 *Octavius* 13 (1885 English; on point 7) “therefore doubts that the common people pray to and publicly worship the consecrated images of these men… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 7–8*

7 *Diatessaron* 25 (on point 5) “his custom. The Pharisees came to him to test him, and they asked him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He said, "What did Moses command… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Diatessaron* 8 (on point 5) Matthew 5:31 It was said that whoever puts away his wife should give her a certificate of divorce. Matthew 5:32 But I say to you that everyone who… [continues online] **read ›**

Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · sources 9–11*

9 *To Autolycus* 34 (1885 English; on point 7) “to this day their images are daily fashioned, idols, the works of men's hands… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *To Autolycus* 9 (1885 English; on point 7) “shall not make unto you any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *To Autolycus* 13 (1885 English; on point 5) “5:28 And he that marries, says [the Gospel], her that is divorced from her husband, commits adultery… [continues online] **read ›**

Athenagoras, *c. 170–190 AD · source 12*

12 *A Plea for the Christians* 33 **Quote 7, page 4** “a second marriage is only a specious adultery… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 13–15*

13 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English; on point 2) “True knowledge is [that which consists in] the doctrine of the apostles, and the ancient constitution of the Church throughout all the world, and the distinctive manifestation of the body… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English; on point 1) “do this, I say,] by indicating that tradition derived from the apostles, of the very great, the very ancient, and universally known Church founded and organized at Rome by the… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Against Heresies: Book IV* **Quote 2, page 2** “it is necessary to obey the presbyters in the Church—those who, as I have shown, possess the succession from the apostles; those who, along with the succession of the… [continues online] **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 16–19*

16 *Stromata* 3 (on point 5) is the falling away from one marriage to many. For, as we said, the Apostle uses fornication and adultery in three ways. About these things the prophet says, “You were… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Stromata* 3 (on point 5) it, let him receive it." Matthew 19:11-12 They do not understand that, after He had spoken about divorce, when some asked, "If that is the case of a… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *Exhortation to the Heathen* 4 (on point 7) prophetess, then at least listen to your own philosopher, Heraclitus of Ephesus, as he rebukes images for having no sense: "People pray to these images, with the same result as… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Instructor* 3.11 (1885 English; on point 6) “also women ought to dress neatly, and bind themselves around with the band of chaste modesty, lest through giddiness they slip away from the truth… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 20–27*

20 *On Prescription Against Heretics* 32 **Quote 1, page 2** “if there are any heresies bold enough to place themselves in the middle of the apostolic age, so that they may seem to have been handed down by the apostles… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Against Marcion* 34 (on point 5) unlawfully put away is just as much an adulterer as the man who marries a woman not divorced. Marriage is permanent when it is not rightly dissolved. Therefore, to marry… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *On Prayer* 22 (on point 6) divine Scripture, and that book of Genesis as well, was drawn up, used that same word in writing women, which, by the example of Eve unmarried, applies also to a… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *De Corona* 11 (1885 English) “it be held lawful to make an occupation of the sword, when the Lord proclaims that he who uses the sword shall perish by the sword… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *On Modesty* 16 (1885 English; on point 5) “withal, while prohibiting divorce, he uses the Lord's precept against adultery as an instrument for providing, in place of divorce, either perseverance in widowhood, or else a reconciliation of… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *On Idolatry* 4 **Quote 9, page 5** “images of those things are idols. The consecration of the images is idolatry… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *On Monogamy* 9 **Quote 6, page 4** “not another, but one that imposed the law from the beginning and moved the will of God to forbid divorce: whoever dismisses his wife, except on the ground of adultery… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *On the Veiling of Virgins* 17 (on point 6) do not quite reach to the ears. If they are so weak in hearing that they cannot hear through a covering, I pity them. Let them know that the whole… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 28–32*

28 *Commentary on Matthew* 14 (on point 5) For in the case of adultery, or any such great indecency, there is no need to write a bill of divorce and put it into the wife's hands. But… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* (1885 English; on point 1) “seeing there are many who think they hold the opinions of Christ, and yet some of these think differently from their predecessors, yet as the teaching of the Church, transmitted… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Commentary on Matthew* 14 (on point 5) been disciplined in chastity and self-control? But from what is said in the law about the bill of divorce, I wonder whether, since the bishop and the presbyter and… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Against Celsus* 10 (1885 English) “even to Him who wished to help Him, and who smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear, He said: Put up your sword into its sheath… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Against Celsus* 62 (on point 7) next. “Let us move on,” he says, “to another point. They cannot tolerate temples, altars, or images. In this they are like the Scythians, the nomadic tribes of Libya, the… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 33–37*

33 *Epistles* **Quote 3, page 3** you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” From there, through the changes of times and successions, the ordering of bishops and the arrangement of the Church continues on… [continues online] **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

34 *Epistles* (on point 4) a priest be appointed in the presence of all the assembly. That is, He teaches and shows that the ordination of priests should not be carried out except with the… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 6) “women, said he, adorn themselves with shamefacedness and sobriety, not with broidered hair, nor gold, nor pearls, nor costly array, but as becomes women professing chastity, with a good conversation… [continues online] **read ›**

36 *Epistles* (on point 3) those whom they lure away from us. It does not matter to us at all what the enemies of the Church do, as long as we ourselves keep respect for… [continues online] **read ›**

37 *Epistles* (on point 2) of Stephen. He boasts so much about the place of his bishopric, and argues that he holds the succession from Peter, on whom the foundations of the Church were laid… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 38–43*

38 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 5, page 3** that those named by us bishops, and presbyters, and deacons, were made so by prayer and by the laying on of hands, and that the difference in their names shows… [continues online] **read ›**

39 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 4) Matthias was chosen to be an apostle in the room of the betrayer, and took the lot of Judas; as it is said, His bishopric… [continues online] **read ›**

40 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 6) “reverence and holy fear, as to the body of their king. Let the women approach with their heads covered, as is proper to the order of women. But let the… [continues online] **read ›**

41 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** “5:4 For such sacred offices are conferred by the laying on of the hands of the bishop… [continues online] **read ›**

42 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 4) “Concerning the ordination of deacons, I Philip make this constitution: You shall ordain a deacon, O bishop, by laying your hands upon him in the presence of the whole presbytery… [continues online] **read ›**

43 *Apostolic Constitutions* is, you shall not destroy a man like yourself, for you destroy what was well made. Not as if all killing were wicked, but only the killing of the innocent… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · source 44*

44 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 1) “anticipation, however, of this, the apostolic word marks out the case thus: If any one preach any other gospel unto you than that which you have received, let him be… [continues online] **read ›**

Arnobius, *c. 290–330 AD · source 45*

45 *Against the Heathen* 6 (1885 English; on point 7) “images which fill you with terror, and which you adore prostrate upon the ground in all the temples, are bones, stones, brass, silver, gold, clay, wood taken from a tree… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 46–50*

46 *Divine Institutes* 10 (on point 7) pious, they then become especially impious. For the more religiously they honor those earthly images, the more wicked they are toward the name of the true divinity. And so they… [continues online] **read ›**

47 *Divine Institutes* 20 (1885 English) “that it is always unlawful to put to death a man, whom God willed to be a sacred animal… [continues online] **read ›**

48 *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 64 (1885 English) “is an old precept not to kill, which ought not to be taken in this light, as though we are commanded to abstain only from homicide, which is punished even… [continues online] **read ›**

49 *Divine Institutes* 26 (1885 English; on point 7) “despising the images of the dead, we worship the living and true God… [continues online] **read ›**

50 *Divine Institutes* 20 (on point 7) there in sacrificing victims? What purpose is there in spending so much on making or worshiping images? The human breast is a stronger and purer temple. Let this instead be… [continues online] **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

John Chrysostom, *c. 386–407 AD · sources 51–55*

51 *Homilies on Acts* (on point 4) “forth the hand, or ordination: the hand of the man is laid upon the person, but the whole work is of God, and it… [continues online] **read ›**

52 *Homilies on John* 53 (1885 English; on point 6) “a woman if she be unveiled straightway puts on her veil, giving proof of internal reverence, and a man if he be covered bares his head… [continues online] **read ›**

53 *Homilies on First Corinthians* 26 (on point 6) and the hair are one, and also that a woman who is shaved is again the same as a woman whose head is uncovered. For, he says, "it is one… [continues online] **read ›**

54 *Homilies on First Corinthians* 26 **Quote 8, page 4** at all times, but only when he prays. For he says, "Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head." But he commands the woman to be… [continues online] **read ›**

55 *Homilies on First Corinthians* 26 (on point 6) I am afraid that, although some of our women have taken on the outward dress, they may still be found immodest in their actions and uncovered in other ways. That… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *50 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

56 **Susanna 1:32** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

57 **Susanna 1:34** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

58 **Matthew 5:32** But I tell you that whoever divorces his wife, except on account of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. **read ›**

59 **Matthew 10:34** Do not think that I came to send peace on the earth. I did not come to send peace, but a sword. **read ›**

60 **Matthew 16:18** And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I shall build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. **read ›**

61 **Matthew 19:9** I tell you that whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and he who marries her when she is divorced commits adultery.” **read ›**

62 **Matthew 26:52** Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place, for all those who take the sword will die by the sword. **read ›**

63 **Mark 3:15** and to have authority to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: **read ›**

64 **Mark 10:11** He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. **read ›**

65 **Mark 10:12** If a woman herself divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” **read ›**

66 **Mark 16:20** They went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that followed. Amen. **read ›**

67 **Luke 13:7** He said to the vine dresser, ‘Behold, these three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and found none. Cut it down! Why does it waste the soil?’ **read ›**

68 **Luke 16:18** Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery. He who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery. **read ›**

69 **John 2:16** To those who sold the doves, he said, “Take these things out of here! Do not make my Father’s house a marketplace!” **read ›**

70 **John 18:11** Jesus therefore said to Peter, “Put the sword into its sheath. The cup which the Father has given me, shall I not surely drink it?” **read ›**

71 **Acts 1:20** “For it is written in the book of Psalms: Let his dwelling be made desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it; and: Let another take his office of overseer. **read ›**

72 **Acts 2:4** They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak. **read ›**

73 **Acts 2:8** How then do we each hear in our own native language? **read ›**

74 **Acts 2:42** They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. **read ›**

75 **Acts 3:22** For Moses indeed said to the fathers, ‘The Lord our God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers; him you shall hear in everything he speaks to you. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

76 **Acts 6:6** whom they set before the apostles. When they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. **read ›**

77 **Acts 8:17** Then they laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

78 **Acts 8:19** saying, “Give me this authority too, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” **read ›**

79 **Acts 9:14** Here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” **read ›**

80 **Acts 13:3** Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. **read ›**

81 **Acts 13:15** After the reading of the law and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, speak.” **read ›**

82 **Acts 22:2** When they heard that he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, they were even more quiet. He said, **read ›**

83 **Acts 26:3** especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews. Therefore I beg you to hear me patiently. **read ›**

84 **Romans 3:1** Then what advantage does the Jew have? Or what is the profit of circumcision? **read ›**

85 **Romans 3:8** Why not (as we are slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say), “Let us do evil, that good may come?” Those who say so are justly condemned. **read ›**

86 **Romans 7:3** So then if, while the husband lives, she is joined to another man, she would be called an adulteress. But if the husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is no adulteress, though she is joined to another man. **read ›**

87 **1 Corinthians 7:11** but if she does separate, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband—and that a husband not send away his wife. **read ›**

88 **1 Corinthians 11:4** Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head. **read ›**

89 **1 Corinthians 11:5** But every woman praying or prophesying with her head uncovered dishonors her head. For it is one and the same thing as if she were shaved. **read ›**

90 **1 Corinthians 11:6** For if a woman is not covered, let her hair also be cut off. But if it is shameful for a woman to have her hair cut off or be shaved, let her be covered. **read ›**

91 **1 Corinthians 11:7** For a man indeed ought not to have his head covered, because he is the image and glory of God, but the woman is the glory of the man. **read ›**

92 **1 Corinthians 11:10** For this reason the woman ought to have authority on her head, because of the angels. **read ›**

93 **1 Corinthians 11:13** Judge for yourselves: is it fitting for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? **read ›**

94 **1 Corinthians 11:15** But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her, because her hair is given as a covering. **read ›**

95 **1 Corinthians 12:28** God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, and kinds of tongues. **read ›**

96 **2 Corinthians 4:9** pursued, yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed; **read ›**

97 **2 Corinthians 12:12** Truly the signs of an apostle were worked among you in all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty works. **read ›**

98 **1 Timothy 2:7** for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie—a teacher of the Gentiles in faithfulness and truth. **read ›**

99 **1 Timothy 2:9** Likewise, I desire that women adorn themselves in orderly clothing, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothing, **read ›**

100 **1 Timothy 2:10** but with good works, which is appropriate for women professing godliness. **read ›**

101 **1 Timothy 3:1** The saying is trustworthy: if anyone aspires to the office of bishop, he desires a good work. **read ›**

102 **1 Timothy 3:15** but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct oneself in God’s house, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. **read ›**

103 **1 Timothy 4:14** Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the elders. **read ›**

104 **Hebrews 5:4** No one takes this honor upon himself, but is called by God, as Aaron was. **read ›**

105 **Revelation 13:10** If anyone has captivity as his lot, he goes into it. If anyone kills with the sword, he must be killed with the sword. Here are the endurance and the faithfulness of the saints. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *157 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 2:23 · 2:24 · 4:25 · 6:1

Leviticus 15:18 · 26:1

Deuteronomy 8:18 · 20:5 · 20:19

Proverbs 4:25 · 6:27 · 9:17

Isaiah 33:14 · 50:9

Jeremiah 13:1 · 23:24

Malachi 2:15

Matthew 5:3 · 5:17 · 5:28 · 5:31 · 5:39 · 5:40 · 5:42 · 5:45 · 5:46 · 6:1 · 6:5 · 6:19 · 6:24 · 7:21 · 9:13 · 11:18 · 18:20 · 19:3 · 19:4 · 19:5 · 19:6 · 19:8 · 19:10 · 19:11 · 19:12 · 23:9 · 24:19 · 24:37 · 26:61 · 27:5

Mark 2:11 · 10:5 · 10:9 · 12:32 · 13:17

Luke 1:52 · 6:1 · 6:28 · 6:29 · 6:30 · 6:32 · 6:36 · 6:46 · 9:20 · 9:35 · 14:33 · 16:16 · 16:19 · 16:22 · 16:23 · 16:29 · 17:28 · 20:25 · 20:27 · 20:34 · 21:23

John 1:14 · 2:19 · 3:6 · 6:27 · 12:6 · 18:4 · 18:6 · 21:19

Acts 1:7 · 1:18 · 9:5 · 10:13 · 10:34 · 11:15 · 15:1 · 15:7 · 15:9 · 15:13 · 15:23 · 20:28

Romans 2:28 · 4:1 · 4:2 · 4:11 · 7:1 · 7:4 · 7:12 · 14:3 · 14:17 · 14:19 · 14:21

1 Corinthians 3:16 · 4:7 · 6:9 · 6:12 · 6:14 · 6:15 · 6:18 · 6:19 · 7:1 · 7:2 · 7:5 · 7:8 · 7:9 · 7:10 · 7:14 · 7:27 · 7:32 · 7:34 · 7:39 · 9:5 · 10:20 · 11:1 · 11:14 · 14:33 · 15:46

2 Corinthians 3:6 · 3:7 · 4:4 · 10:13 · 11:3

Galatians 1:8 · 2:18 · 5:13 · 5:17

Ephesians 4:5

Philippians 4:3

Colossians 2:18 · 2:20

1 Thessalonians 5:18

1 Timothy 3:2 · 3:12 · 4:1 · 4:3 · 5:9 · 5:14

Hebrews 2:2 · 13:5

James 4:6

1 Peter 1:19 · 2:9 · 2:11 · 5:5

Revelation 14:4

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Is a church apostolic if it has succession but drops the apostles' teaching?” on April 10, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

How it was made. Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.

How to cite this study. The Historic Faith, “Is a church apostolic if it has succession but drops the apostles' teaching?” Early Church Questions, published November 9, 2026, https://thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/is-a-church-apostolic-if-it-has-succession-but-drops-the-apostles-teaching. To cite one quotation, add its number and source, for example “quote 1, source 20.”

© 2026 The Historic Faith. Selection, arrangement and editing by THF; machine-compiled text and public-domain quotations are not claimed. For personal study; please don’t republish.

THEHISTORICFAITH.COM

THE END OF THIS STUDY