

Apostolic Authority

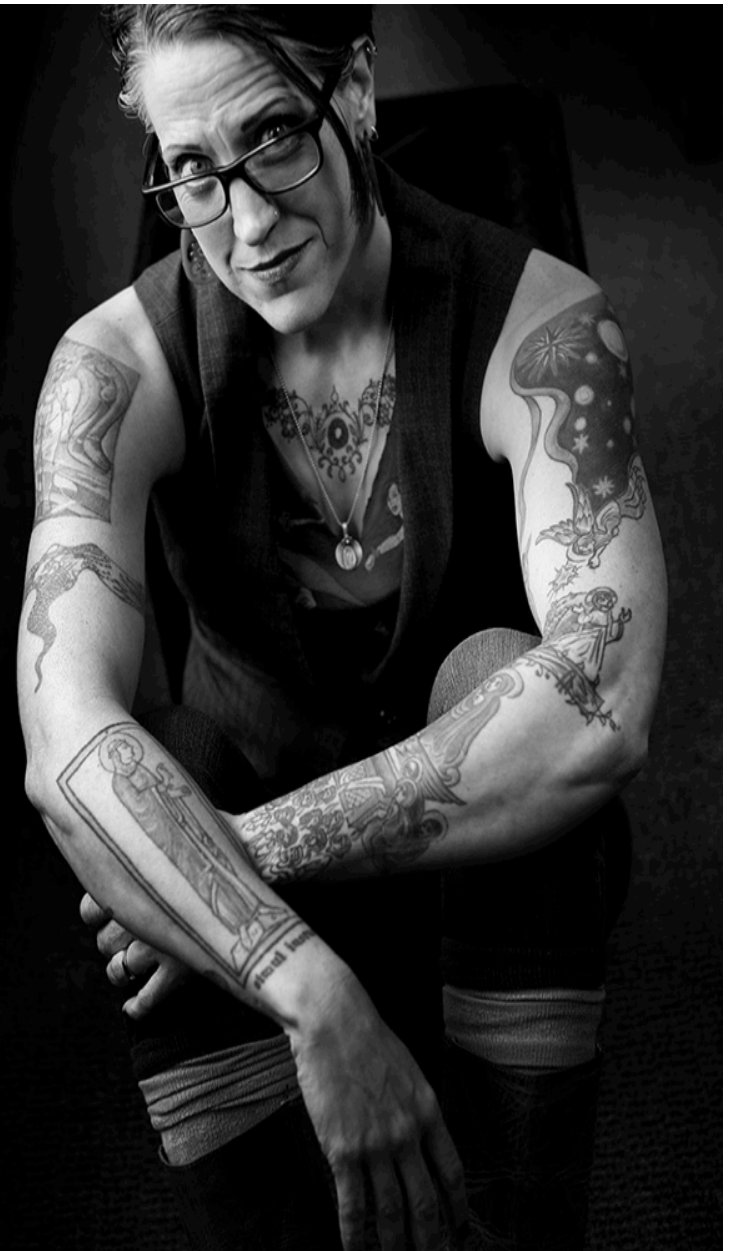
NOT ACCORDING TO MAN

"I GET JESUS...

**...BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW
ABOUT THOSE APOSTLES"**

"There's stuff in Paul's letters that is like so incredibly beautiful it's like you almost tear up reading it, right? At where you're like, 'That is the Gospel.' Like when he is good he is unbeatable, right? When he is bad he is wretched. Right? So in Paul's letters it's like at one point he is just going off about his opinions about how you should do church and what this person should do and don't do that and this isn't okay and blah blah blah and then he speaks theologically and it's like beautiful, right?"

-Nadia Bolz-Weber



Jesus Has All Authority

- While God spoke to mankind in many ways throughout history, He has revealed His will in Jesus Christ in this final age (Hebrews 1:1-2).
- True and full knowledge of God can only be found in His Son. The two are inseparable according to Matthew 11:27 and 1 John 2:22-23.
- Everything Jesus spoke came directly from God and was authoritative (Matthew 28:18, John 8:26-32, John 12:44-50).

**"SO WHY THE NEED FOR
ANYTHING ELSE?"**

Witnesses To The World

- The ministry of Jesus was intentionally limited (Matthew 10:5-6, 15:24). He left His apostles behind to continue His work (Acts 1:18, 10:34-43).
- We do not have *everything* that is "gospel" in the gospels alone. Jesus clearly indicated that more information was coming (John 16:12-13, 14:22-26). This would include "all the truth" and "all things" by the inspiration of the Spirit.
- Everything we need to know was revealed in its entirety in the ministry of the apostles (Jude 3, 2 Peter 1:3).

"This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles."

2 Peter 3:1-2

"But what about Paul?"

Even some of the doubters might come around to accepting the "eyewitness" apostles like Peter, James, and John (1 John 4:6, 1:1-4, 2 Peter 1:16-18). But Paul is often seen as an outlier, even a renegade of sorts. His writings are offensive, brash, and supposedly at odds with what the "true" apostles believed.



The *Apostle* Paul

- First, there is Paul's own profession of authenticity and authority (1 Cor. 2:12-13, Gal. 1:11-12, 2 Thess. 2:13).
- But is that enough? It is important to remember that the books of the Bible are interwoven and you cannot pick and choose what you would like to believe. Jesus, Luke, Peter, and Paul are all connected – take one out and you must toss all of them!
- How much "gospel" do you lose when you only accept the gospels? How much of Jesus do you miss when you disregard His ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20)?

"That by revelation there was made known to me the mystery,
as I wrote before in brief. And by referring to this, when you
read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,
which in other generations was not made known to the sons of
men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and
prophets in the Spirit"

Ephesians 3:3ff