APEST Apostle

Guiding Convictions

These are the non-negotiable principles and convictions of how we understand and pursue the equipping gifts. We cannot grow in the equipping gifts without...

- knowing that the equipping gifts are not goals unto themselves. They are the means by which the church is unified in the faith, reaches maturity, attains to the full measure of Christ's life.
- a proper self awareness in terms of our personal limitations, tendencies, barriers, and flesh tendencies. These things can and will impact our thinking and living within these gifts.
- being fundamentally and authentically rooted in Christ.
- a vibrant Spirit-led lifestyle.
- the core conviction that the Bible is the general and specific authority for truth, life, and ministry.

Learn

Definition

Delegate, envoy, messenger (Danker, Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich)
One sent on a mission, a special messenger (Louw & Nida)

The collective impression of this term, as represented by the relative uniformity of opinion on experts concerning its meaning, is that this word describes a person who is sent with an entrustment of a significance.

- “sent” - the apostle is not a “go-er” in the purest sense of the word, but rather one who is sent by someone else. An apostle is also not stationary, but one who is moving in the direction of the one who sent him/her.
- “entrustment” - the apostle is sent for a specific purpose, determined by the one who sent him/her. being used of God to expand the core of His mission/message to where where it has not been

Biblical Observations

Luke 6:13

And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles

- Apostles originated with God
- Apostles are authorized by God
- Apostles are faithful followers

Acts 2:43

And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

- Apostles are empowered by God
- Apostles extend God's power

Mark 6:30

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught.

- Apostles are accountable to Jesus

Acts 1:24-26

24 And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen 25 to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." 26 And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

- Apostles can be recognized by other faithful believers

1 Corinthians 4:9

9 For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men.

- Apostles serve through great sacrifice

Function

Christ gave the gift of apostle to the Church to establish and ground multiplying communities of faith in the truth of God's Word and to equip and inspire others to do the same.

- Lay a foundation of sound teaching and doctrine
- Model obedience to the Word, specifically in the mission of going
- Equip others, through the Word, to embrace the going posture of the mission
- Defend/Protect the faith through the Word
- Cast a biblical vision for mission alignment

Timing

- Since the equipping gifts are for the the equipping of the entire church, they are best understood as **"culture forming" gifts**; each non-negotiable in the every rhythm of a healthy church.
- It is then crucial for the formation or planting of a healthy church.
- It is also crucial for the culture of a healthy church, in order for it to be focused properly on multiplication.

Team Engagement

Complete this short topical study in preparation for discussion with the elders.

Biblical Passages

- Matthew 28:18-20
- Acts 5:12
- Acts 15:2-23
- 1 Corinthians 9:1-2
- 1 Corinthians 12:28-29
- Ephesians 2:20
- Ephesians 3:5
- Romans 11:13
- 2 Corinthians 11:13
- Revelation 2:2

Questions

- What do these verses teach you about the thinking of an apostle?
- What do these verses teach you about the function of an apostle?

Comparison

- In relationship to the Great Commission, outline the particular role/function of the apostle.
- Differentiate between the *thinking* of an apostle and what you know of the other speaking gifts.
- Differentiate between the *functions/actions* of an apostle to what you know about the other speaking gifts.

Consider

- Could/should an MC be "apostolic"?

- In what ways could/should an MC be "apostolic"?
- How might you as an MC Leader better function in the way of an apostle within your MC?
- What are practical ways that you could begin to model and declare (form a culture of) apostolic living within your MC?