

APEST In Practice - MC

We have talked about the implications of the APEST paradigm for our church as a whole, but we want to outline a brief sketch of how it affects individual missional communities as they seek to align to the mission of God.

Remember that equipping is ultimately for the purpose of seeing all believers do the work of ministry. APEST is not the end in itself, nor is it to the primary focal point. It is the means by which God equips the church to become more holistically what He wants it to be. Your desire then should not be to focus on the specific gifting of APEST among your leadership team, but rather that the values of APEST would be propagated in the life of your missional community.

The primary way that these values are propagated in your MC is through your personal embracing and growth in them, and in how you lead the group in embracing them. Again, you want to remember that the values of APEST are what matter most, not who is gifted in them or what the form looks like. Overall equipping into the mission of making disciples is your aim, not just effective use of a gift. This is why your greatest way to practically equip others is by instructing them through word and deed. Modeling teaching is the best way to introduce others to teaching. Modeling shepherding is the first step in equipping others to shepherd. Modeling and leading in evangelism instructs and motivates others to evangelize.

It is of utmost importance that you as a MC Leadership Team embrace your charge to keep the ultimate focus of the MC in place. Remember that your group will naturally lose focus and become distracted with forms over function. They will easily get off track and focus on gifts and abilities over the mission of making disciples. It is on you as leaders to make the values of APEST and the lifestyle of discipleship your community goal. You can never expect your missional community to live a lifestyle that you are not willing to pursue and lead in yourself. You must remember that you are leading a community on mission, not just a community of believers.

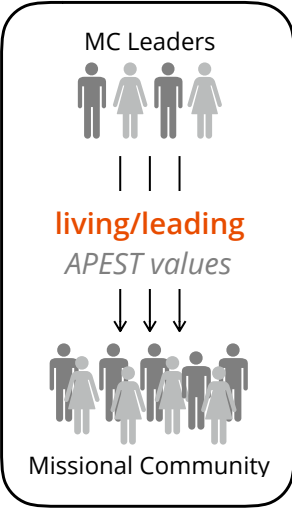
Consider this diagram which shows the proper view and focus of APEST in the context of missional community.

Elders/Deacons

APEST gifts



equipping
APEST values



unto
mission

Unbelievers

