APEST Evangelist

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.

Definition

Proclaimer of the gospel (Danker, Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich)
One who announces and/or mobilizes the announcing of the good news (Louw & Nida)

The overall understanding of this word is quite simple. Most define it is a proclaimer of good news, but a simple understanding of the grammar suggests a more broad sense where it has a person in view who is a steward of the Gospel.

- “good news” - the message of the gospel is key. It is the clear message of good news that is from God to people and provides the means of salvation and fruitful living. Evangelists are those who are committed to the clarity of God's good news to people.
- “of” - the evangelist is "of" the evangel, which broadens our view to actions other than mere proclamation. It seems to include concepts of preservation, clarity, and conviction as well. Evangelists are those who wholly of the gospel.

Biblical Observations

Acts 5:42

42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

- Evangelists do not cease to proclaim the gospel.

Acts 8

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. 27 And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." 30 So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. 33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." 34 And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 36 And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" 38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

- Evangelists are sent to those who do not understand the Gospel.
- Evangelists are prepared to articulate the Gospel from the Bible.

Acts 17:18

18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

- Evangelists are those who clearly present the Gospel in its opposition to other false messages of salvation.

Acts 20:24

24 But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

- Evangelists understand that the core of any ministry is the Gospel which reveals the gracious nature of God toward people.

Romans 10:15–16

15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?"

- Evangelists are sent to those who do not understand the Gospel.

Romans 15:16

16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

- Evangelists are the link to all people becoming part of God's family.
- Evangelism is a service to God because it is His message for people.

Romans 16:25

25 Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages

- Evangelists understand the specific clarity of it, unveiled through the ministry of the Apostle Paul.

1 Corinthians 15:1–4

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

- Evangelists understand and proclaim the full and true meaning of the gospel that is rooted in the work of Jesus in his death and resurrection.

Galatians 1:6–16

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. 10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. 11 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. 12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. 13 For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted

the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. [14] And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. [15] But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, [16] was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone;

- Evangelists protect and defend the true gospel.
- Evangelists uncover and protect the church against false gospel claims.
- Evangelists protect and defend the Gospel not for debate but for the purpose of clear proclamation of the Gospel to others.

Ephesians 1:13

[13] In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

- Evangelism is the essential message that changes the identity of an unbeliever to a believer, from an enemy of God to a child of God, marked by the indwelling and sealing of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 3:6

[6] This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

- Evangelism unifies all who believe.
- Evangelism saves every single person who believes - no matter their history, background, or heritage - and unites them all into one family through the one Person/Savior Jesus Christ.

Function

Christ gave the gift of evangelist to the Church to ensure the prominence and clarity of the gospel as the central truth of the message of the Bible and the core doctrine of the Church.

- They were to promote it as the absolute and only standard by which the Church is established.
- They were also meant to keep it pure and preserve its clarity within the Church as she grew and began to multiply outward.

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 every rhythm of a healthy church.
- The gift of evangelist 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. Note in the passages below that the root word for "evangelist" is "evangel," and it also comes in the verb form "to evangelize." "Evangel" is often translated as "gospel" as well. These various passages include occurrences of all these different forms of the word "evangelist."

Biblical Passages

- Acts 5:42
- Acts 8:26-40
- Acts 17:18
- Acts 20:24
- Acts 21:8
- Romans 10:15-16
- Romans 15:16
- Romans 16:25
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
- 2 Corinthians 4:4
- 2 Corinthians 10:14-16
- Galatians 1:6-16
- Ephesians 1:13
- Ephesians 3:6
- 2 Timothy 4:5

Questions

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

Comparison

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

- Differentiate between the *functions/actions* of an evangelist to what you know about the other speaking gifts.

Consider

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