

Big Idea

When we look at the four Gospels, we generally think of Christ's journey to the cross and the salvation message. The gospel also serves a second purpose: it shows us that God can and does use imperfect people to advance God's Word and build his kingdom.

4 New Disciples

- ▶ Simon
- ▶ Andrew
- ▶ James
- ▶ John

Ephesians 2:10

"We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Allyson Holland

"What we know to be true about Jesus is that He chose ordinary and unrefined men to be his apostles. They were the commonest of the common. They were from rural areas, farmers, and fisherman. Christ purposely passed over the elite, aristocratic, and influential men of society and chose mostly the men from the dregs of society. That's how it has always been in God's economy. He exalts the humble and lays low those who are proud."

Matthew Henry

"Christ puts honour upon those who, though mean [common] in the world, are diligent in their business, and loving to one another; so those were, whom Christ called. He found them employed, and employed together. Industry and unity are good and pleasant, and there the Lord Jesus commands the blessing, even this blessing, Follow me."

Application Point:

When we trust God to use us in our imperfection, we allow him the space to develop our physical and spiritual giftings over time.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

The Five Functions of APEST

- **Apostle:** Pioneers and entrepreneurs who focus on the big picture, launch new ventures, and expand the mission.
- **Prophet:** Cultural and spiritual voices who challenge the status quo and highlight the gap between reality and God's ideals.
- **Evangelist:** Communicators and recruiters who share the good news and draw new people into the faith community.
- **Shepherd (Pastor):** Caregivers who protect, nurture, and maintain healthy, connected relationships within the community.
- **Teacher:** Educators who help others understand truth, grasp wisdom, and apply complex ideas.

How the Framework is Used

- ▶ **Team Dynamics:** Many churches and leadership teams use APEST assessments to understand individual strengths and build balanced, collaborative teams.
- ▶ **Shared Ministry:** Instead of applying these roles only to formal clergy, the framework suggests that all believers express a mix of these servant functions.