

## INTRODUCTION TO APEST - THE FIVE CALLINGS OUTLINED IN EPHESIANS 4

All five ministries are needed to engender and sustain a full ministry. All five ministries in dynamic relation to one another are absolutely essential to discipleship, healthy churches and growing movements. The ministries are assigned to the whole church, not just leadership.

### APOSTOLIC (SENDING AND EXTENDING)

In Greek the term apostle literally means 'sent one'. The uniqueness of the Apostolic lies in the ability to pioneer new, innovative and mission minded works. It has the capacity to extend Christianity as a healthy, integrated, innovative, reproducing movement, ever-expanding into new cultures and situations.

In an individual, he or she has an internal sense of urgency for the future, and an awareness of the needs of tomorrow. Apostolic people seek opportunities to engage causes of significance larger than themselves. He or she is often an entrepreneur, a ground breaker and strategist seeking to initiate an organization's or individual's purpose, service, or mission. Apostolic people sense movement and change and influence by ensuring that Christianity is transmitted from one context to another, from one era to another.

#### CHARACTERISTICS

- Visionary thinking and motivation
- Comfortable crossing boundaries - intellectual, social or cultural
- Entrepreneurial interests to build communities of faith
- Starting something new is energizing
- Pioneering new endeavours
- Strategic decision maker
- Innovative approaches and solutions
- Uncomfortable with the status quo
- Sees things holistically, part of larger system
- Understands multiple dynamics and components
- Deep relations

### PROPHETIC (QUESTIONING AND EMBODYING)

The genius of Prophetic influence is the ability to discern the spiritual realities in a given situation or community. This style communicates the elements of the spiritual realities in a timely and appropriate way. This function is tasked with maintaining loyalty and faithfulness to God above all. Prophets are guardians of the covenant relationship that God has with his people. The prophetic has an innate sense of knowing the mind of God on issues concerning justice and righteousness. The prophetic is also passionately concerned with living a life morally consistent with the covenant - simple and authentic life of justice, holiness, and righteousness.

In an individual, he or she is concerned with the holiness of God and his relational covenant with his people. The Prophet seeks integration between spiritual realities "as it is in heaven" and immediate need "as it is on earth." He or she is a questioner, freely disturbing the status quo and challenging individuals and organization to move in a different direction.

#### CHARACTERISTICS

- Questions what has become normative
- Disturbs common thinking and practices
- Agitates for positive change
- Desires learning for purposes to influence
- Discerns the message of Truth
- Seeks to ensure an authentic response to Truth
- Inspires all people to respond to God's message
- Urgency felt now, in the moment, "this must happen"
- Comfortable dismantling the present for future hope
- Deep compassion for the cause of the people
- Seeks to experience the justice and righteousness of God



## EVANGELISTIC (RECRUITING AND CONNECTING)

The Evangelistic communicates the gospel message in a way that people respond to by having greater faith in themselves and their purpose, and inspires people to greater commitments of following and discipleship. The evangelistic genius is to recruit others for a cause.

In an individual, he or she senses the urgency of the moment and engages what needs to be changed now for what must happen in the future. Often, evangelistic people are comfortable around believers and non-believers alike. He or she will make great sacrifices to achieve a genuine response. He or she is a communicator / recruiter, taking the organization's message to the outside, and convincing people of it. The evangelistic person impacts the community through expansion. They influence others by calling for greater personal response and sacrifice to a greater cause and purpose.

### CHARACTERISTICS

- Recruits for a cause
- Makes clear the message of salvation
- Communicates passionately
- Message of organizational purpose.
- Needs others to hear and respond
- Core issue is conversion, coming to faith
- Naturally enthusiastic; enthusiasm can be contagious
- A perspective that sees people as souls needing faith
- Can personalize and contextualize the message of God's love
- Motivated to see the people move toward Christ
- Needs response from people, leads to belief and belonging

## SHEPHERDING (DEVELOPING AND DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS)

This is the function and calling responsible for maintaining and developing healthy community and enriching relationships. This involves commitment to nurture spiritual maturity, maintain communal health, defend the community against breakdown, and engender loving community among the redeemed family of God. The shepherding influence is the people-oriented motivator who develops and supports healthy relational systems.

In an individual, he or she has the unique ability to know and understand the needs of people and the ability to develop others. Shepherding focuses on the needs of today and manages people through meaningful and personal contact. Often shepherding people have a unique understanding of others' feelings and emotions, creating a sincere relational bond. He or she will seek to create safe environments for meaningful spiritual growth and discipleship. He or she is a humanizer; they provide the emotional glue for the caring of individuals within an organization

### CHARACTERISTICS

- Core issue: love for people - individually and collectively
- Humanizer providing care, concern and correction
- Unifier of an organization
- Patient and timely with care, seeking relational healing
- Cultivates loving and mature relationships
- Aware of the spiritual network within a community
- Desire to see people enriched, connected and understood
- Expresses God's love through creating healthy communities
- Seeks the dignity and respect of each person
- Aware of dangers, protects and guards others



## TEACHING (TRAINING AND CONTEXTUALISING)

This function is concerned with passing on wisdom and understanding. This involves bringing a comprehensive understanding of the revelation given to the church. The teaching influence inspires others to learn and obey the Truth of Christ's teachings and commands. It is a guiding and discerning function. The Biblical understanding of this function emphasises wisdom, not simply speculative philosophy. It involves integrating the intellectual and spiritual treasure of the community and encoding it, in order to pass it on to others and the coming generations.

In an individual, he or she is the one who explains and seeks explanation of the truth. The teaching capacity focuses on the integration of truth into the personal and social elements of the community. He or she can be seen as a systematiser, seeking to organize various intellectual and practical parts into a working unity. With this type of understanding, the teaching capacity advances a cause through clear and simple communication. The teaching influence articulates organization and structure to others for the fulfilment of a cause or task. It influences others by clarifying the mind and will of God so people gain wisdom and understanding.

### CHARACTERISTICS

- Effective communicator of Truth
- Others led to a deeper understanding and ownership
- Philosopher, imparter of ideas and principles
- Translator of great complexities into simple teachings
- Systematiser for solutions, process and integration
- Guides others with wisdom and understanding
- Discerns audience's ability to comprehend, starts there.
- Encourages exploration in thinking toward solutions
- Core issue is understanding
- Have a curiosity to know more and to explain this knowledge
- Strong desire for people to understand teachings and wisdom of God
- Willing to take the time for people to understand for themselves

Sources:

[theforgottenways.org/apest-intro](http://theforgottenways.org/apest-intro)

[www.fivefoldsurvey.com](http://www.fivefoldsurvey.com)

