

UNDERSTANDING THE APOSTOLIC

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.

The Apostolic **advances** - as commissioned in Acts 1:8. sees over the horizon, sees what's needed, sees not just their own people, but they see the region, not content with just their community, they see their own community as the means by which more can be reached. **Initiates new works** in order to bring people to Jesus. The evangelistic is passionate about bringing people to Jesus, the apostolic is interested in raising up a community in its wake. **Strengthens** the church and other ministries

THEOLOGICAL ROOTS IN GOD

Father Creator, Sender, Sovereign, Designer, Judge, Source

The Apostolic aspects of God are seen in those parts of his being that relate to design, creation, purpose and mission.

JESUS THE APOSTLE

Jesus was sent into the world as the chosen agent of God's eternal mission (John 3:16). He followed the path that the Father set for him. He reframed how God could be accessed and experienced; he extended boundaries of God's kingdom on earth and initiated a worldwide movement.

Jesus is:

- The Great Apostle (Hebrews 3:1)
- The Founder of the Church (John 20:21)
- The Sent One (John 17:8)
- King (John 18:36, Revelation 19:13,16)
- The Representative of the Father (John 17:4-7)

Jesus functioned apostolically:

- He had a clear purpose and mission (Mark 1:14-15, John 10:10, John 3:16)
- He was continually advancing (Mark 2:35-39)
- He equipped and multiplied (Luke 9:1-6; Luke 10:1-9)
- He established the church (John 17:6-26)

THE APOSTOLIC IN THE CHURCH

The authentic APOSTOLIC church experiences and seeks to live out its sent-ness (mission) in every way possible. When a community engages apostolically in God's mission of transforming the world, it is authentically church. The mature expression of the Apostolic in the Church is evidenced in the Church as theologically consistent, missionally engaged in all of life, culturally dynamic, high impact, organisationally adaptive, scalable and is a church planting movement. The desired social impact is of a transformed society through Gospel saturation by a church unified in purpose and mission.



Apostolic Functioning in the Early Church

- Specific Callings and spheres: Galatians 2:8 Peter called to Jews; Paul called to the Gentiles.
- Strengthening and establishing: Acts 14:21-24; Acts 18:22-24
- Signs and Wonders & Multiplication: Acts 2:40-47; Acts 4:32;33, Acts 5:12-16

It is also evident that there were others operating in the apostolic in the early church in addition to the Twelve: Aquila and Priscilla, Apollos, Julia, Paul.

APOSTOLIC				
Theological Roots (Apostolic in the doctrine of God)	Archetypes and Heroes (Apostolic patterns laced in and throughout creation)	Reconstituted Apostolic (Redeemed and exemplified by Jesus)	Apostolic Functions (Given to and coded into the church)	Apostolic Callings (Individuals)
Father Creator Sender Sovereign Designer Judge Source	Founder General Visionary Pioneer Adventurer	Founder Messiah Sent One King Head God's Kingdom Agent Establisher of the DNA Establisher and builder of his church Commissioner of his people	Organise around sent-ness Maintain integrity of paradigm and DNA Trans-local networking Entrepreneurial capacities Church planting Scale and scalability in organisation Innovation and risk-taking	Church planters Innovators Entrepreneurs Cross-cultural missionaries Organisational designers Regional networkers Cultural architects

SOURCE: Activating 5Q A Users' Guide, Alan Hirsch & Jessie Cruickshank

THE APOSTOLIC AND THE INDIVIDUAL

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.

In the power of the Holy Spirit, the apostolic person is imbued with an innate sense of the big-picture purpose of the organisation. Unsurprisingly, apostolic individuals tend to favour the entrepreneurial edges of the church and have a natural capacity for adventure; they tend to be less risk-averse than others. They are the ones most likely to innovate, to extend the faith into new ground. They have an irreplaceable purpose in maintaining ongoing missional capacities, generating new forms of church, and working for the continual renewal of the church.



UNDERSTANDING APEST

APOSTOLIC				
Archetype	Hero-Expression in General Culture	Categories of Intelligence	Domains of Society	Universal Examples
Founder General Visionary Pioneer Adventurer	Designers Innovators Entrepreneurs Paradigm-shifters Cultural architects Organisational designers Movement-makers Systems thinkers Business leaders Problem-solvers Imagineers Start-ups	strategic dynamic adaptive strategic holistic future-oriented pattern-sensitive innovative adventurous creative ideational design-oriented	business politics architecture governance innovation entrepreneurship	Steve Jobs Catherine Booth Franklin Roosevelt Joan of Arc Angela Merkel Adam Smith Karl Marx Thomas Edison Genghis Khan Andrew Carnegie Bill Gates John Wesley Aimee Semple McPherson

SOURCE: Activating 5Q A Users' Guide, Alan Hirsch & Jessie Cruickshank

What does this mean for the individual?

- Cast vision to those around you. Do not be afraid to let your passion and excitement ignite others' lives.
- Listen to questions and comments of others. Often these elements will identify details needing to be integrated into your message.
- What you see as needed to further a missional cause may not be immediately seen by others, you will need to envision them either individually one at a time, or in large groups, depending on your mindset.

How the apostolic function might show up in the work place:

The apostolic individual in the staff meeting will be the person whose voice is priming the organisation for innovation and entrepreneurship. They will be developing capacities for appropriate risk taking and pushing the organisation into taking these risks. They will be the people challenging colleagues to dream dreams. They are the people challenging the organisation to imagine forward, reminding colleagues of the greater vision and their commitment to maintain it. Their leadership style will be decisive, design-focussed and strategic. Sometimes they can be dominant, task-focussed, demanding and insensitive to others.

The **APOSTOLIC** is complemented by the **SHEPHERDING** and **TEACHING** to help them to remember that people need to be cared for on an ongoing basis, and to manage healthy transition; and the **PROPHETIC** to help them create the systems and strategies to implement their visions.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

- How can I serve in this calling in my small group, team, work place, the church?
- What mission has God given me?
- What do I need to see advanced?
- To whom and where is God calling me to be faithful in building up and strengthening?

FURTHER READING

5Q: Reactivating the Original Intelligence and Capacity of the Body of Christ (Paperback): Alan Hirsch

The Pulse of Christ: Nathan Brewer

