



# APOSTLE

## EXPLORING THE FIVEFOLD MINISTRIES

---



### WHAT AN APOSTLE BRINGS

Apostles are visionary and seek out new territory. They establish new initiatives and come up with new ideas. They enjoy challenges and change.

They look to the future. Historically they are the people who went to the furthest places long before anyone else.

They see potential in others, and wake people up to it. They can see what needs to happen, and will speak truth about issues that need confronting. They long to see everyone reaching their full potential.

They create movement with purpose, and connect people to it. They can help build teams. Without the apostolic gift things remain with the status quo, people don't see their gifts or potential, and are not encouraged to realize them.

They pioneer but they also guard the core vision so that it is not lost. They might open things up into new contexts, or reform what already exists from the inside.

### BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF APOSTLES

---

Jesus called his disciples "apostles": "When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles." (Luke 6:13). On a number of occasions Paul calls himself an apostle: "Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God..." (Romans 1:1). Priscilla and Aquila established a church in their home and were Paul's "co-workers in the ministry of Christ Jesus."

---

### JESUS THE APOSTLE

Jesus understood Himself to be sent by God to fulfil His mission, with His authority (John 3:16).

As the Father sent Him, so He sends his apostles. The writer of Hebrews calls Him our "apostle and high priest". (Hebrews 3:1)

---

FUNCTION / CALLING:  
**APOSTOLIC / APOSTLE**

<b>Theological Roots</b> (APEST in the doctrine of God)	<b>Archetypes and Heroes</b> (APEST patterns laced in and throughout creation)	<b>Reconstituted APEST</b> (Redeemed and exemplified in Jesus)	<b>APEST Functions (Implicit)</b> (Given to and coded into <i>ecclesia</i> )	<b>APEST Callings (Explicit)</b> (Practitioners)
Father, Creator, Sender ( <i>missio Dei</i> ), Sovereign, Designer, Judge, Source	Founder, General, Agent-envoy, Visionary, Pioneer, Adventurer  <b>Examples:</b> Pioneers, Breakthrough designers, Innovators, Entrepreneurs, Visionaries, Embodiments of purpose-mission, Paradigm shifters, Cultural architects, Movement-makers, Systems thinkers, Business Leaders, Problem-Solvers, Imagineers, Start-ups	Founder, Messiah, Sent one, King/Head, Messiah, God's kingdom agent, Establisher of genetic code/DNA, Establisher and builder of his church, Commissioner of his people	Organize around sentness, Maintain integrity of paradigm and DNA, Translocal networking, Entrepreneurial capacities, Church planting, Scale and scalability in organization, Innovation and risk-taking	Church planters, Innovators, Entrepreneurs, Cross-cultural missionaries, Organizational designers, Regional networkers, Cultural architects

TAKEN FROM 5Q BY ALAN HIRSCH

## THE DISCIPLESHIP OF AN APOSTLE

They are like Paul on the road – travelling and activist.  
They may meet with God best while doing things. They may be helped to come to God by periods of waiting – the season of Lent may be a good opportunity for the apostolic person to recalibrate.

## WHAT AN APOSTLE NEEDS TO BE CAREFUL OF

Too much challenge, too quickly, which tires people out.  
Allowing the many ideas they may have to be discerned spiritually by others (especially prophets) before acting.  
Becoming frustrated with others not “getting it”.  
Not ensuring there is follow-through to tasks and thus creating initiative fatigue.  
Seeing people as a means to get a task done, rather than as valuable in themselves.  
The temptation to pride or arrogance that comes from being “up front”.

## QUESTIONS FOR AN APOSTLE TO REFLECT ON:

Am I helping people to discover who they are in Christ?  
How am I walking alongside them?  
Am I seeking to extend God's work?  
How am I listening to God, and sharing with others, in discerning which ideas to follow?  
How am I responding to the challenges being apostolic can bring?  
Where do I see the need for the apostolic ministry in my church or workplace?  
What is God saying and how might I respond?

