

Vision and Values – An Apostolic People

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31 October 2010

Key Text

Mark 3:13-19

The apostolic offices and prophetic offices are a combination of the gifts that are being restored to the church within recent times. This means that people from all nations are being released to do their work. The apostolic provide structure and governance for the church while the prophetic involves seeing the future and the unseen moving of God. All Christians in some manner are both apostolic and prophetic in the way in which God works through them.

Prophetic

Prophecy by nature is 'seeing into the future'. They see the future; they plan for the future; and they see the future come to fruition. They aim to hear from God and hear His plans. Christians with the prophetic office help steer the church.

Apostolic

Apostolic is:

1. *Sending*

Apostolic essentially means 'send from'. Mark 3:13-19 demonstrates that Jesus called the 12 apostles, trained them and sent them out to the villages around the area. God has a nature to send. He equips and sends people to do His work. Eg. Abraham and Jesus. [Matthew 28:18]
Acts 2:1-8 records the situation where the Holy Spirit came to the first Christians (including the 12 apostles) and they immediately went out to preach the Good News.

2. *Planting*

Church planting is a pattern that is observed in Acts (as opposed to para-church organisations or crusade-style ministries). Acts 1:8 reveals this strategy with the Good News being spread from the local town -> surrounding area -> state -> country -> world. This strategy requires a strong base from which the sending comes from – Jerusalem was this base for the early church. The Apostle Paul used this strategy frequently with great success. [1 Thes 1:7-8]

3. *Discipling*

Discipling is seeking to teach, train and equip believers. Christians all have a role in discipling each other. Jesus gave his life for the 12 apostles and taught and trained them. Eph 4:11 requires Christians to work together in unity.

4. *Giving*

To send out is to give away; to release someone to go to the nations. Seemingly insignificant service, releases others to be apostolic. Serving is the key to the apostolic heart. Serve with passion and freedom. Giving of finance or tithe enables the sending, planting and discipling.

5. *Praying*

Prayer is another form of giving. The Apostle Paul asked for prayer frequently. Prayer is important both corporately and personally.

6. *Relating*

Jesus had a close relationship with his disciples. They become family and friends. The apostolic ministry requires Christians to work in teams, not individualistic. The early church has numerous examples of Christians working together in close relationships.