



# Apostolic Ministry

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## F U L F I L L M E N T

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*"And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, to build up the body of Christ."  
Ephesians 4:11-12*

*"You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone."  
Ephesians 2:19-20*

**"Apostle"**- A "sent one" and a "set one." While the word "apostle" literally means one who is sent to pioneer a new work or a new territory (which can refer to geographical, relational, or spiritual territory), the word also carries with it the full authority of the one who sends him/her and sets the apostle with all the authority of Christ with full diplomatic immunity.

Because the College of Prayer is a global, pioneering ministry, it is essential that we function apostolically. It is time that we biblically define the word and begin to appropriately use it. The word "apostle" is certainly biblical and it is certainly not inappropriate to use the word. It is used 19 times in the New Testament. We, however, choose to normally use the term "apostolic ministry" rather than the word "apostle" so as to not claim apostolic succession or confuse ourselves with the original twelve. While we want to embrace our calling to apostolic ministry, we don't want to take ourselves too seriously.

Since there are so many abuses and misconceptions regarding apostolic ministry in the world today, it is essential that we clarify how we are using the term "apostolic ministry."

### **What Apostolic Ministry is NOT**

Arrogant  
Superior to others  
Autonomous—void of accountability  
Independent, isolated

### **What Apostolic Ministry IS**

Humble, accurate view of ourselves  
Serving others  
Under constituted authority  
Activates team members

## **The Five Major Characteristics of Apostolic Ministry**

### **1. Apostolic ministry is pioneering.**

*"I make it my ambition to preach the Gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation..." Romans 15:20*

The College of Prayer is a **pioneering** ministry, and thereby must function apostolically.

## **2. Apostolic ministry is foundational.**

*"I make it my ambition to preach the Gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation..." Romans 15:20*

*"They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42*

The College of Prayer is a **foundational** ministry, and thereby must function apostolically.

## **3. Apostolic ministry is strategic.**

*"I laid a foundation and someone else is building upon it." 1 Corinthians 3:10*

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." Matthew 28:19*

The College of Prayer is **strategic** ministry, and thereby must function apostolically.

## **4. Apostolic ministry is memorable.**

*"And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses and entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:2*

The College of Prayer teaching must be memorable and thereby must be done apostolically.

## **5. Apostolic ministry is reproducible.**

*"And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses and entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:2*

The College of Prayer is a **reproducible** ministry, and thereby must function apostolically.

## **Apostolic Ministry Functions in Four Essential Areas**

### **1. Apostolic Leadership**

*"God gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers to equip the saints." Ephesians 4:11-12*

### **2. Apostolic Prayer and Apostolic Prayer Mobilization**

*"Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Matthew 9:38*

### **3. Apostolic Teaching**

*"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Acts 2:42*

### **4. Apostolic Mentoring**

*"For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers." 1 Corinthians 4:15*

## **Insights Into Apostolic Ministry**

1. While apostles function best when they do not take themselves too seriously, it is essential for those who minister apostolically to walk in his/her God given authority and fulfill his/her God given calling. The apostle's role on the team is to activate the other team members, particularly the prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, because the apostle is the one who sees the bigger picture and keeps the end in sight. He/she thinks strategically, foundationally, and developmentally.

2. An apostle is like a father (or mother). A healthy father does not raise children to serve himself, but he empowers his children to exceed himself. Everything in the kingdom flows relationally. The kingdom of God travels along relational lines. The more effectively a ministry mentors future leaders the more effectively it is built to last.

3. Apostolic ministry requires the activation of prophetic ministry. Both apostolic ministry and prophetic ministry need to function synergistically.

4. As long as ministry continues to function apostolically, there is no limit to its future growth. It is only when a ministry shifts from functioning apostolically that it begins to plateau or atrophy.
5. The following apostolic ministry principles would be helpful to consistently review.
  - Christ alone is the Chief Apostle.
  - Those who lead apostolic ministries function best by raising up and activating the gifts and callings of others.
  - While not everyone is an apostolic leader, an entire ministry functions best when it functions apostolically.

### **Field-Tested Guidelines On How An Apostolic Ministry Serves the Church**

1. An apostolic ministry comes to normally serve what Christ is already doing, or certainly what He intends to do. Christ the Chief Apostle is the initiator, and we are the responders.
2. An apostolic ministry comes to build relationships, not just teach material.
3. An apostolic ministry comes with breaker anointing to take the church into new territory. God has prepared both the church and the territory, but without apostolic ministry, the church is unable to move forward.
4. An apostolic ministry comes to lay a solid foundation.
5. An apostolic ministry comes as spiritual fathers and mothers to empower indigenous leaders, validate their calling, and equip them for more effective ministry. The goal is not to draw attention to those leading apostolic ministry, but rather to build up the indigenous church leaders.

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