

CORE
CLASS

Family Night

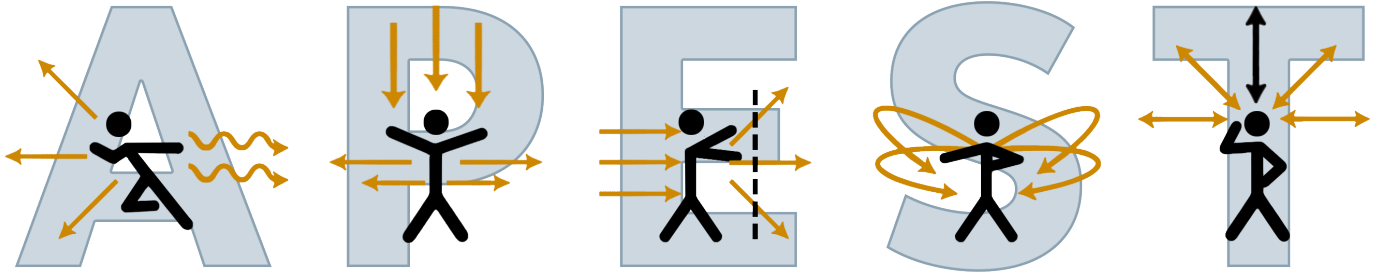
M.A.P. out your personal calling



APEST and Passions

*“And He gave some as **apostles**, some as **prophets**, some as **evangelists**, some as **shepherds** / **pastors** and **teachers**, for the **equipping of the saints** for the **work of ministry**, for the **building up of the body of Christ**; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”*

— Ephesians 4:11



The Apostle

“One who is sent and extends”

The Prophet

“One who questions and reforms”

The Evangelist

“One who recruits and gathers”

The Shepherd

“One who protects and provides”

The Teacher

“One who understands and explains”

These represent gifts, passions, perspectives, and voices given to Christians for the growth of the church as a whole. Only Jesus was fully all five of these. Jesus works in and through these gifts to grow the church into His likeness. We want all of our major physiological systems working well together (vascular, nervous, digestive, muscular, and skeletal)—we must use the same way of thinking with APEST. APEST is not a hierarchy, but a team effort. They are not competing perspectives, but **complementary perspectives**.

Of these five, a few may stand out as a passion you have while others may represent tendencies you do not have. Identifying how Jesus has gifted and designed you will help you better understand your role in your relationships and church. It will also help you identify your weaknesses and need for other perspectives and voices in your life.

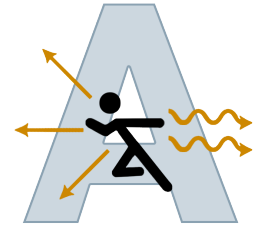
From the brief descriptions above, circle the one that most represents you and put a box around the one that least represents you.

Let’s dive a little deeper into each...

The Apostle

“One who is sent and extends”

The **office** of Apostle ended with the 12 and Paul, but the passion and leadership necessary for vision, taking the next hill, and plowing new ground is continued with those who have been gifted by Jesus with the heart and mindset of a “sent one.”



In the Christian context, apostles are seen as messengers or representatives of Jesus, called to plant and oversee churches and to lead and guide the Christian community. They are often described as being visionary and pioneering, with a strong emphasis on evangelism and discipleship.

Apostles extend the gospel. As the “sent ones,” they ensure that the faith is transmitted from one context to another and from one generation to the next. They are always thinking about the future, bridging barriers, establishing the church in new contexts, developing leaders, networking trans-locally.

The word “apostle” literally means “sent one.” The Latin form of this word is *missio*, which is where we get our English word “mission.” The apostle is the one most responsible to activate, develop and protect the missionary “sentness” of the church. They are cultural architects who are concerned with the overall extension of Christianity as a whole throughout culture and society. As such, they are often drawn to issues related to design, systems and overarching organizational structures.

Immature Apostles can be so goal oriented that they run over people, or run people ragged. They can often place unhealthy emphasis on achievement, and at times lack gentleness and patience when people don’t understand them. They can be overly driven and overly demanding. They have trouble being part of a group they’re not leading. When they experience resistance from others, they tend to push harder rather than stepping back and evaluating.

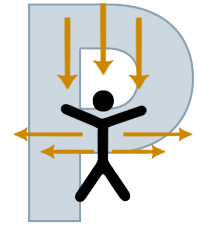
What would happen to the church without this voice active within its leadership and its people?

What happens if this is the only voice leading the church?

On a scale of 1 to 10 (not at all to absolutely) how well does this description describe you?

The Prophet

"One who questions and reforms"



In the Old Testament, prophets were often seen as mouthpieces for God, delivering messages of warning, judgment, and redemption to the people of Israel. In the New Testament, the role of the prophet is somewhat different, with a greater emphasis on the gift of prophecy as a means of edification, exhortation, and comfort within the Church.

Prophets stand for right and wrong. They stand in the gap and fight for justice and “hessed” for those who can’t fight for themselves. They are concerned with the vertical and the horizontal.

They often have a sense of what truth needs to be emphasized for their time and place. Essentially, prophets are guardians of the covenant relationship. Whether it is in the church, society, or some organizational setting, prophets are quick to recognize the gap between “what is” and “what should be.” Ultimately, they are not satisfied until they see a “closing of the gap” between God’s demands and our covenantal faithfulness.

Immature Prophets can be overly critical being hyper-focused on what they dislike and disagree with. They can be stubborn and argumentative in the face of unfamiliar information or judgmental in sizing others up. At times, they can be internally arrogant and self-righteous while disapproving of others. They have a hard time with ambiguity and desire immediate resolution of a problem. They often feel they have to point out every inconsistency they see. They can attach to idealistic expectations about how things should be and bitter when they don’t pan out.

Without the other types of leaders in place, prophets can become belligerent activists or, paradoxically, disengage from the imperfection of reality and become otherworldly.

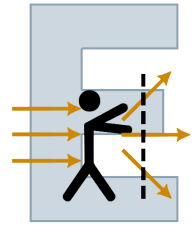
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The Evangelist

"One who recruits and gathers"



Evangelists are people who are passionate about spreading the teachings of Christianity and who are dedicated to bringing others to faith in Jesus. They are often characterized by their ability to communicate the gospel message clearly and effectively, and by their passion for seeing others come to know Christ.

Evangelists equip and recruit others to share the Gospel. They call for a personal response to God's redemption in Christ, and also draw believers to engage the wider mission, growing the church.

"Evangelists are people who are passionate about sharing the gospel and reaching the lost. They are often gifted in communicating the gospel in ways that resonate with people who are outside of the church."

— Alan Hirsch

Evangelists communicate the message of the Good News in joyous, infectious ways. They are avid communicators of ideas and often share their thoughts and feelings in convincing ways. They are recruiters to the cause and find great fulfillment in helping people get caught up into the driving narrative of the church/organization—the gospel of the Kingdom. As people who are bearers of good news, they have an attractational quality to their ministry.

Immature Evangelists are so enthusiastic that they can be unwise in their decision making. They have tendencies to exaggerate or even lie in order to have people engage with them. They tend to be poor listeners, practicing selective hearing because they are only listening for what they deem is important. They might over-share information about other people. They avoid conflict because they want people to like them. They can be easily discouraged when things are difficult and no longer exciting.

Without working with the other gifting, evangelists can be so focused on reaching those outside the church that maturing and strengthening those inside is neglected.

What would happen to the church without this voice active within its leadership and its people?

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The Shepherd

"One who protects and provides"



Pastors, also known as shepherds or overseers, are responsible for the spiritual welfare and care of a congregation. This can include preaching, teaching, and leading worship, as well as providing pastoral care and counseling to individuals within the church. Pastors are often seen as spiritual leaders and counselors, and are expected to model a life of devotion and service to others.

Shepherds nurture and protect. Caregivers of the community, they focus on the protection and spiritual maturity of God's flock, cultivating a loving and spiritually mature network of relationships, making and developing disciples.

"A Shepherd can identify needs, provide comfort, and encourage others. Pastors easily empathize with others and exhibit lots of patience with those in need. Out of a drive to nurture, protect, and love God's people, they spend most of their time with other Christians."

— Mike Breen

They have a sense of loyalty to the organization and the people within it. They ensure the community is experienced as a safe and loving environment, giving their ministry a distinctly communal focus.

Immature Shepherds can be so sensitive to the feelings of people that they can be guided by the fear of offending. They can be panicked and unable to live with disappointing others. They often overextend themselves because they don't know how to set up appropriate boundaries. They are slow to act because they get anxiety about all the possible negative outcomes. They are so attuned to pain that they can be overwhelmed by their own pain and problems. They tend to pick up other people's offenses.

Shepherds can value stability to the detriment of the mission. They may also foster an unhealthy dependence between the church and themselves.

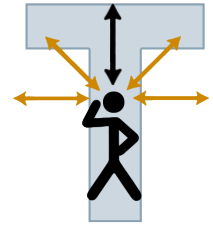
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The Teacher

"One who understands and explains"



Teachers are individuals who are able to instruct and educate others in the faith, helping them to understand and apply biblical truths to their lives. This may involve leading Bible studies, teaching Sunday school classes, or lecturing in a seminary or other educational setting. Teachers are often characterized by their ability to communicate complex theological concepts in a way that is accessible and applicable to others.

Teachers understand and explain. Communicators of God's truth and wisdom, they help others remain biblically grounded to better discern God's will, guiding others toward wisdom, helping the community remain faithful to Christ's word, and constructing a transferable doctrine.

Teachers are people who have a deep understanding of God's word and are gifted in explaining and applying it to others. They help to ground and strengthen the church.

Teachers find great satisfaction in helping people learn truth and wisdom. As the more philosophical types, they grasp complex, systemic truths and then help people understand them. They often formulate curriculum and pathways of learning. They ensure the truths of Scripture are passed along from generation to generation. Their ministry could be said to be primarily instructional in nature.

Teacher's Immaturity - They can be exacting and obsessed with accuracy that they project right and wrong. With the ability to collect vast amounts of information and systematize it, they can be rigid in areas with little practical experience, thus knowledge can be valued over wisdom. The teacher can value their relationship with information over their relationship with people. In their hunt for clarity, they can offend people with their bluntness, lacking empathy.

Without the input of the other functions, teachers can fall into dogmatism or dry intellectualism. They may fail to see the personal or missional aspects of the church's ministry.

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What happens if this is the only voice leading the church?

On a scale of 1 to 10 (not at all to absolutely) how well does this description describe you?

APEST Self-Assessment

Which of these roles best describe you?

Apostolic Roles	Prophetic Roles	Evangelistic Roles	Shepherding Roles	Teaching Roles
Founder	Activist	Messenger	Caregiver	Sage
Designer	Politician	Salesperson	Defender	Professor
Cultural Architect	Advocate	Journalist	Peacemaker	Philosopher
Visionary	Aid Worker	Recruiter	Helper	Scientist
Pioneer	Poet	Promoter	First-Responder	Guide
Adventurer	Reformer	Champion	Healer	Engineer
Strategist	Liberator	Storyteller	Counselor	Researcher
Innovator	Environmentalist	Marketer	Human Resources	Legal Worker

Which one least describes you?

How would you list the 5 from most to least descriptive of you?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Closing Thoughts on APEST:

- The church must have all 5 present to fully equip the saints and fulfill its mission.
- Embrace that you have something to contribute and you have something to learn.
- Surround yourself with people with different spiritual voices. Try to see things from their perspective and with their priorities.
- Now progress from an awareness of your spiritual voice to using your voice. Grow in grace, truth, and love in the use of your voice.
- Your growing edge is your weakest voice. We will go through moments and phases of life where we must learn to use all these voices. We will often effortlessly return to our base voice, but through growth all of them become more accessible.

Passions: Ministry Passion Assessment

Knowing your ministry passion will release greater motivation and enthusiasm into your life and ministry! It's one of the key ways to serve the Kingdom purposes God has created you for! The purpose of this assessment is to help you identify your God-given ministry passion.

Directions:

1. You may not be able to answer all of the questions. That is okay. The assessment is designed to explore a variety of ways God speaks to us about our ministry passion.
2. Prayerfully consider your responses to each question.
3. Since this is an individual exercise, complete the assessment on your own.
4. There is no right or wrong answer. Answer with what is on your heart.
5. At this point, do not consider whether you could do it or how you could do it. All you need to do right now is *name* it.
6. Assume there are no obstacles to hinder you from fulfilling your heart's desire. Assume everything is taken care of—family, money, career, time, education, etc.
7. Finally, understand that not being gifted or having passion in an area does not exempt you from basic obedience to the scriptures to serve in love wherever God places you.

Ministry Passion Assessment Questions

1. If you could snap your fingers and success was guaranteed, what would you do for others?

2. What injustices or circumstances do you currently see in the world that annoys or angers you? These are things that if you think too long and hard on them, they may keep you awake at night.

3. I am excited about some things more than other things. I get most excited about...

4. At the end of my life, I'd love to be able to look back and know I did something about...

5. Use the chart below to help uncover a theme in your life that may give you an insight into your ministry passion.

Some ministry passions can be centered on a people group or a social issue. Consider these partial lists and indicate anything that tugs at your heart. Underline those that resonate with you.

PEOPLE GROUPS

Infants	Children	Youth
Teen Moms	Single Parents	College Students
Divorced	Widowed	Singles
Career Women	Young Married	Refugees
Parents	Empty Nesters	Homeless
Unemployed	Elderly	Disabled
Prisoners	Poor	Hospitalized
Addicts	Professionals	Educators

SOCIAL ISSUES

Environment	Childcare	Homosexuality
Discipleship	Immigration	Politics
Violence	Trafficking	Racism
Education	Addictions	Economic
Evangelism	Technology	Health Care
Poverty	Family	Abortion
Hunger	Literacy	Nutrition

How would you summarize a statement about what you've underlined above? I.e.: "I would say my ministry passion is to (*people group*) around the issues of (*social issue*)."

7. Now, let's focus on the ministry passion categories at Bible Center. Which **one** of these passion categories best reflects your area of passion?

✓	Passion Categories	The Heart of These Ministries
	Worship Ministries	<i>Equipping the church to worship through the Word, music, the arts, technology, etc.</i>
	Recovery Ministries	<i>Creating spaces and community for those struggling to heal from loss, addictions, and difficulties.</i>
	City Ministries	<i>Working and praying for the renewal and flourishing of our city.</i>
	Discipling Ministries	<i>Focused on helping people continue to grow to become more like Christ. It serves a variety of life stages and affinity groups for growth, accountability and service.</i>
	Shepherding Ministries	<i>Assisting people in the church and community with their physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual health.</i>
	Connecting Ministries	<i>Assimilating visitors, attenders, and members into a relationship with Christ and the church through hospitality, fellowship, belonging, and encouragement.</i>
	Supporting Ministries	<i>Freeing other people, leaders, and ministries from practical concerns to keep focused on their ministry goals.</i>