



Sunday February 21, 2010 Becoming An Apostolic Church

The first Sunday of Feb, we mentioned 7 major moves of God in the Body of Christ today, which we must not miss:

1. The release of prophetic – prophetic ministry affecting prayer, intercession, worship, art, business and touching almost every sphere
2. The rising of true apostles, apostolic ministries and apostolic churches – causing the expansion of the Kingdom of God geographically and into several spheres of society that otherwise was untouched
3. The supernatural being released through every believer
4. 24/7 Prayer and Worship
5. Seven Mountain Assignment and the Equipping of Marketplace believers
6. Believers responding to the problems of society
7. Introduction of forms of ministry and worship that are relevant

This morning we will delve a little deeper into what the apostolic is all about and what it means to be an apostolic church.

What is the apostolic?

Apostle Gr. *apostolos* = a sent one, a delegate

This word literally means “one sent forth.” Apo literally means “from,” and stolos comes from stello, which means “I send.” Within the New Testament and in other classical Greek literature, apostolos has the simple meaning of “one sent as representative of another,” the representative deriving his authority and power from the one sending him. This simple definition is the root of the meaning of apostle.

The word apostolos was originally a secular term used by the Greeks and the Romans to describe special envoys sent out to establish the dominion of the empire. These envoys were sent to certain territories and charged to subdue, conquer, convert, instruct, train and establish the new subjects in the culture of the empire.

Jesus is the Chief Apostle Hebrews 3:1

The apostolic is an expression of Christ the Apostle through the believer.

Ephesians 4:11,12

There is the ministry gift of the apostle in the Body of Christ.

Among other things, the apostles impart and equip believers in the “apostolic”.

1 Corinthians 12:28

- The word “first” in 1 Corinthians 12:28 is the Greek ‘proton’ = (a)first in time, (b)first in order, rank, importance.
- First in time describes the pioneer. As pioneers apostles
 - (a)pioneer understanding of new truths and revelations
 - (b)pioneer the expansion of the Kingdom into new territories
 - (c)go ahead of others, leading from the front, into new frontiers.



- First in order, ranking or function does not mean that being “first” means you are “better”. For instance, we know that God is Trinity. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are all equally God, equal in power and yet the Father is the functional head (1 Corinthians 11:3). In this manner, the apostles who carry governmental anointing provide functional headship to the church – giving it breakthrough capability, pioneering ability, divine patterns, etc.

Three distinct characteristics of the apostolic:

- **Pioneers** : to be apostolic is to be a pioneer.
“Pioneers have the ability to advance ahead of the others to instill greater confidence into the heart of the rest of the Body of Christ who are following behind. Their forward advancement opens up new doors for effective service for the Church. Their ministry provides a cutting edge to influence and impact society”. (Jonathan David)
- **Builders** : to be builders. You lay the foundation and build. Part of this is expressed in the “fathering” nature of the apostolic.
- **Governing** : you establish Kingdom culture, rule and order

Can Every Believer Be Apostolic?

Every believer is a “sent one” in one sense.

John 20:21

2 Corinthians 5:20 We are ambassadors.

Paul referred to the apostolic team as ambassadors (see 2 Cor. 5:20). An ambassador is a diplomat of the highest rank representing a nation. An ambassador is an official envoy, a diplomatic agent of the highest rank accredited to a foreign government. An ambassador is a delegate. A delegate is a person with delegated authority.

Every believer within the context of their present vocation in life can be apostolic and manifest the apostolic nature within them to Pioneer, Build and Govern.

The Apostolic in life and ministry

In Ever day life:

Describe scenarios where a believer can be apostolic in the context of their vocation, choices and ministry.

As a church:

Describe scenarios where the church can be apostolic in the context of a city, a nation and nations.

Becoming An Apostolic Church

Purpose

- To advance the Kingdom of God and establish Kingdom culture and rule in the hearts and lives of people.

Process

Stage #1: Territorial Entrance : Identify your specific people and place

Stage #2: Pioneering Stage : begin initial work

Stage #3: Building Stage : the work takes shape and structure begins to emerge



- Apostles within the local church serve as a father to many
- Strong leadership and governmental responsibility within the local church
- Help establish doctrine within the local church
- Establish order within the local church
- Develop new wineskin – God’s order and structure for the local church

Stage #4: Governing Voice : God now gives spiritual authority over the region

- Bringing unity among churches/ministers in the city
- Becoming spiritual fathers in the city
- Taking on leadership towards city transformation
- Representing the Body of Christ toward governments/local civic authorities
- Influencing governmental regulatory policies
- Having access to places and people of influence
- Causing “movements” at the grass-root level
- Execute God’s plan and purpose for the city
- Have impact for social reformation

Stage #5: Apostolic Base : the church now becomes a base from which people are sent out and advance the Kingdom in other territories. People now come to the base to be nurtured, receive impartation and to go out.

The Antioch Church Acts 11-14 is a classic example of an apostolic church over view of the growth and development of the Antioch church.

Pitfalls

Apostolic churches are very intense in spiritual things, very strong in leadership, very focused on Kingdom advancement. There is the danger that

- people don’t feel very cared for because apostolic leaders are very different from pastoral leaders.
- people feel left behind because of not understanding the nature of the apostolic mandate

Results

A thriving church, see kingdom advancement both in spiritual realms and in the natural.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>