

[This is a translation of master thesis of Christiaan Bakker]

## **2.4 What does an apostle do?**

When we look at how the word apostleship is being filled, a couple of things are remarkable. First of all we see that the DPG [=Third Wave Pentecostals] fill in the apostolic ministry mainly from the Bible. The EMC [=Emerging-Missional Conversation] pays more attention to other scientific research – mainly from the social sciences.<sup>1</sup> We see that they connect apostolic leadership to all sorts of models and personality checks. Hirsch for example says that the Myers-Biggs personality type of an apostle will be ENTJ, INTJ, INTP or ENTP.<sup>2</sup> Hirsch sees the apostolic leadership style as decisive, strategic and targeting design.<sup>3</sup> An apostle asks constantly: “Does this support the enlargement of our capacity for mission?” He can be driven, demanding, manipulative and insensitive.<sup>4</sup> A church where there is only an apostle without PEST [the other 4 ministries], will be in trouble (it will be autocratic, demanding, high pressure to develop).<sup>5</sup> This shows us that we need all five of the ministries; only then there can be synergy. None of the ministries is intended to function on its own.<sup>6</sup>

In this way this model is a substitution of a model where there is one leader that needs to do everything. There is recognition of different leadership style, so that everyone can work from his or her strength. They see this model of Paul as “a dynamic synergy of different giftings and motivations pulling *together* in harmony and unity for the building up of the whole.”<sup>7</sup>

Secondly differentiate both groups between Paul and Peter type of apostles.<sup>8</sup> The ‘Paul’ model is featured by word like cross-cultural, pioneer and founder. The ‘Peter’ model by intercultural, visionary and architect. According to Hirsch apostles from the first model found missional churches, the ones from the second make sure that they remain missional. Wagner sees a connection between this and the work they were doing before they were called: Peter was a fisherman and Paul was a builder of tents.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Vgl. Reggie McNeal, *The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church*. Vol. 46 of the Jossey-Bass leadership network series (San Francisco: Wiley, 2003), 118.

<sup>2</sup> *TPR*, 94.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 94-96 (tabel 2.1).

<sup>4</sup> Neil Cole and Ross Rohde, “*Apostolic Leadership in Organic Church Movements*,” (Orlando: CMA Conference, 2008): 10:00v.; “*The 4-1-1 on the Ephesians 4;11 Team*,” 9:00v.

<sup>5</sup> Vgl. *TPR*, 131.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 102,119v; Terry Virgo, *The Spirit-Filled Church: Finding Your Place in God’s Purpose* (Oxford: Monarch Books, 2011), 155.

<sup>7</sup> *STC*, 174. Vgl. Daniel Sinclair, *A Vision of the Possible* (Milton Keynes: Authentic Media, 2005), 167.

<sup>8</sup> *TPR*, 161v. (zie ook tabel 6.1), 188. Dit wordt vervolgens nog eens opgedeeld in ‘explorers’ en ‘catalysts’ waarbij er vier soorten ontstaan (165v). Vgl.: Devenish, 41v.

<sup>9</sup> SoA, 28. Hier wordt Johannes ook genoemd, maar die komen we verder nergens tegen als model voor een bepaald type apostelschap.

In the literature many different characteristics of apostles are being used. Here we will take the characteristics that are being named by both groups. Even though this list will be extensive, it is generally recognized that not all apostles do the same things. Although every author has his emphasis, we see nowhere that there is one characteristic that everybody thinks should be there.<sup>10</sup> Nevertheless, this list of ten is some sort of core list.

### *1. Apostles are pioneers.*

This point is getting a lot of attention within the EMC.<sup>11</sup> They think about future-oriented, break with tradition, multiplication, taking risks, being different, and breaking way for the Kingdom. Also: 'entrepreneurs'. An apostle has a natural drive to adventure and risk.<sup>12</sup> Other words in this category: intolerance to passivity, a holy dissatisfaction, space to experiment and innovate.<sup>13</sup> The DGP thinks here about the discovery of new regions and areas.<sup>14</sup>

### *2. Apostles create a context in which the rest of APEST evolves.*

The DGP connects this also with the first point; from a pioneer position apostles create the foundation for the other ministries to evolve. The EMC thinks about recognizing leaders and apostles 'call out the other giftings'.

### *3. Apostles are fathers to the churches (1 Cor 4:14-21).<sup>15</sup>*

Within the DGP there is a lot of emphasis on this point.<sup>16</sup> Apostles train new leaders; they are the spiritual fathers for them (comp. 1 Cor 4:15). There is here also a lot of attention for the generations; the next generation can't lose what the previous generation received. Devenish also emphasizes this point.<sup>17</sup> From this category one speaks about 'patriarchal/relational authority'.<sup>18</sup>

### *4. Apostles found churches.*

On the basis of Ephesians 2:20 apostles together with prophets are being seen as the foundations of the (local) church. The rediscovery of church planting nowadays is

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<sup>10</sup> Het onderstaande is een samenvatting van een aantal lijsten met kenmerken en taken. Van de DGP: AT, 24, 28-29, 31-33; CQ!, 117-121; Silk, 44; Torres, 116v; John Eckhardt, *De Apostolische Dimensie: Gods plan om zijn Kerk naar de eindoverwinning te leiden* (Vlissingen: Bread of Life Uitgeverij, 2003), 82-85; Eckhardt (in: Torres), 123v; Eberle, 23-24; Prince, 193-204; Willem Ouweneel, *De Kerk van God I: Ontwerp van een elementaire ecclesiologie* (Heerenveen: Uitgeverij Medema, 2010), 306-309; Rick Joyner, *The Apostolic Ministry* (Fort Mill: Morning Star Publications, 2004), 80-90; Jaap Dieleman, *De Apostel: handboek voor het herkennen van ware en valse apostelen* (Vlissingen: Stichting de Heilbode, 2008), hfst. 5 ('Kenmerken van de apostel'), hfst. 6 ('Het werk van de apostel'); Cannistraci, 90-92. Volgens hem (p. 95) komt het neer op twee fundamentele taken: "planting and watering". Van de EMC: TPR, 53, 75, 94v, 105, 142-148; Breen, 43v, 71 (Breen gebruikt de vierdeling 'Pioneering, Planting, Bridging, Building', maar de invulling van deze termen overlappend met andere van onderstaande termen); STC, 188; McNeal (2011), 112-4; McNeal (2003), 117; Simson, 84; TFW, 153v, 168-170; Devenish, 39-54, 87, 198, 208; Sinclair, 6-7, 9-11; "Apostolic Leadership in Organic Church Movements," 6:30-15:10, "The 4-1-1 on the Ephesians 4;11 Team," 4:30-7:25; Virgo: 148-154; Cole (2010), 157nt5.

<sup>11</sup> TPR, 204v. Breen ziet APE als pioniers tegenover ST als 'settlers' (182).

<sup>12</sup> TPR, 76; 208v.; "Apostolic leadership is entrepreneurial in nature." (TPR, 222). STC, 175 ("The entrepreneur = the apostle"). Ook: Cole and Helfer, 62.

<sup>13</sup> TPR, 101; 228v. Dit punt wordt breed uitgemeten, waarbij men een heel aantal kenmerken rondom innovatie presenteert. STC, 192v.

<sup>14</sup> NAC, 49.

<sup>15</sup> 'Apostolisch vaders' zijn volgens Simson een soort van buitencategorie (89, hfst. 10).

<sup>16</sup> Bijv. Cannistraci, hfst. 9 ('A Movement of the Fathers').

<sup>17</sup> "It is in this 'fathering' context, primarily, that I would contend that the role of the apostle needs to be restored" (Devenish, 11). Ook: Devenish, 48-49, 67, 78 ("fathers in mission"), 272.

<sup>18</sup> "The 4-1-1 on the Ephesians 4;11 Team," 8:15.

being connected to the apostolic in this sense.<sup>19</sup> Apostles birth things, build and oversee. Within the EMC we see ‘planting’ as a characteristic; the sowing of the Gospel in unbroken ground (usually connected to the planting of a church).<sup>20</sup> There is a lot of cultural insight necessary. Also: bridge builder, layer of foundations, architect.

*5. Apostles maintain worldwide/regional networks and relations.*<sup>21</sup>

The apostle works on a translocal/macro level, where he is responsible of the regional cohesion of local church within a movement (‘glocal’).<sup>22</sup> In this sense from all the ministries he is furthest removed from the local church.<sup>23</sup> He intervenes in crisis situations. His authority is moral or inspirational.<sup>24</sup>

*6. Apostles spread Christianity (or: the reign of God).*

According to the EMC this happens mainly through church planting. Hirsch refers to either in new contexts and cultures (‘missionary innovation’) or new ways of church and methods for existing churches (‘missional innovation’).<sup>25</sup> The apostle works here centrifugal.<sup>26</sup> The apostle has a missional impulse with a focus on the viable future and extension of the Christian movement.<sup>27</sup> They have a ‘external’ view; they focused on reaching the world.<sup>28</sup>

*7. Apostles work in a team.*<sup>29</sup>

The partnership between apostles and prophets is emphasized here. Also the fact that Paul mainly was working within a team formation.

*8. Apostles are the guardians of the core and the fundamental ideas of the church (theologically).*<sup>30</sup>

Apostles are the guardians of the church teachings (dogmas) and focus on ‘the big picture’.<sup>31</sup> Hirsch focuses here on the missional DNA of the church; it is being warranted by the apostles. One places emphasis on the fact that everything that is needed for the continual development of the church already is available; it only has to be revealed: apostles do this.<sup>32</sup>

*9. Apostles initiate and mobilize movement (see §2.5).*

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<sup>19</sup> Mattera, 57.

<sup>20</sup> Stuart Murray, *Church Planting: Laying Foundations* (London: Paternoster Press, 1998), 241; Stetzer en Bird, 30.

<sup>21</sup> Derek Prince gebruikt het woord ‘mobiel’. (p. 138).

<sup>22</sup> *TPR*, 96nt1.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, figuur 3.3 (p. 112).

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, 151. Vgl. Doornenbal, 178.

<sup>25</sup> *TPR*, 237v.; vgl. 53, 76, 110 (cultureel: E2-E4).

<sup>26</sup> In vergelijking tot de evangelist die centripetaal werkt. Voor verdere verschillen tussen apostel en evangelist, zie: tabel 3.1 (*TPR*, 110).

<sup>27</sup> ‘Expansion’ (o.a. *TFW*, 154). ‘Sent ones’ in plaats van ‘stay ones’ (“*Apostolic Leadership in Organic Church Movements*,” 6:50v).

<sup>28</sup> *NAC*, 55.

<sup>29</sup> Prince, 138-9.

<sup>30</sup> *TFW*, 153; *TPR*, 76,145; Devenish, 45, 271. Wat die fundamenteen precies zijn, is vooral zichtbaar bij Devenish; hij noemt negen fundamenteen (p. 102-153).

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, 102, 112.

<sup>32</sup> *TFW*, 165.

Hirsch speaks here about apostolic *multiplication* opposite to ‘evangelistic’ *addition*.<sup>33</sup> Apostles have a catalytic function within Gods church; they start a movement and make it accelerate.

[This parts comes from §3.5.1]

*10. Apostles have a calling.*

This seems to be something that is ‘present’ (like a characteristic), and what can be confirmed through prophetic words. Eventually an apostolic calling has to be confirmed by the fruit of your work.

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<sup>33</sup> *TPR*, bijv. 154.