

In recent services David has been talking about the Five Marks of Mission:-

Are you an Apostle, a Prophet, an Evangelist, a Shepherd, or a Teacher? All congregations need a mix of these types. They are all described in Ephesians 4, and you can find out which you are by answering a free on-line questionnaire. Here are descriptions of what Alan Hirsch says makes each type individual.

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. The way they operate resonates with the work of entrepreneurs and developers. They are always thinking about the future, bridging barriers, establishing the church in new contexts, developing leaders, networking trans-locally.

PROPHETS know God’s will. They are particularly attuned to God and his truth for today. Their role is not unlike the role of artists and activists. They bring insight, correction and challenge to the dominant assumptions. They point out what we have imported unwisely from the culture. They insist that the community obey what God has commanded. They question the status quo.

EVANGELISTS recruit like marketers and sales people. These infectious communicators of the gospel message recruit others to the cause. They call for a personal response to God’s redemption in Christ, and also draw believers to engage the wider mission, growing the church.

SHEPHERDS nurture and protect, like nurses, social workers, and counsellors. They are the 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. Shepherds can value stability to the detriment of the mission.

TEACHERS understand and explain, like, well, teachers, professors, and instructors. 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.

Go here for a free APEST questionnaire:

<https://designdiscovery.com/fivefold-spiritual-gifts-test/>