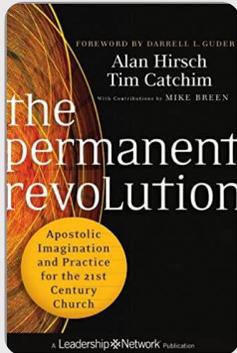


# One Page Book



## Title:

The Permanent Revolution

## Sub-Title:

Apostolic Imagination and Practice for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church

## Author:

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## Synopsis:

The book elaborates on the five-fold ministry from Ephesians 4 (apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teacher), and its significance for the missional movement.

- ⇒ Thinking like a movement instead of an institution has massive implications.
- ⇒ Everyone is gifted and called to operate out of his or her vocational energies, but not all are leaders.
- ⇒ The apostle is the custodian of the core and founding ideas (that is, its DNA) of the ecclesia.
- ⇒ The ministry of all five APEST vocations is required to develop the kind of church that Jesus intended us to be. It's never onefold, twofold, or anything less than fivefold.
- ⇒ Networked movements have the advantage of being able to reproduce easily and can spread very fast, but leading them requires significantly different gifts and skills from the centralized bishop or CEO type of leadership that we have become so accustomed to.
- ⇒ The apostolic creates the proper context for the other ministries to emerge and produce the fruit that they are intended to produce. Because apostolic ecclesiology is more movemental in nature, it can go beyond thinking of the church in concrete ways.
- ⇒ We see that there is an apostolic ministry to the unreached (the Pauline), but there is also an apostolic ministry to the existing people of God (the Petrine).
- ⇒ Institutions create their own needs and have a mysterious way of becoming obsessed with self-preservation. In fact it seems that renewal is largely precipitated by engaging the fringes or, to use a phrase from living systems theory, "surfing the edge of chaos".
- ⇒ The main stimulus for the renewal of Christianity will come from the bottom and from the edge, from sectors of the Christian world that are on the margins.
- ⇒ **The edge is the sweet spot** for knowledge and innovation because it is where the organization must intelligently engage its environment. If it fails to do this, it will eventually fail and die. [They] will either mobilize the community to voyage toward the edge and explore the frontier or will themselves move out.
- ⇒ If leadership does not create a culture of experimentation, along with the willingness to learn from failure it is hard to see how any progress can be made. When the forms of an old culture are dying, the new culture is created by a few people who are not afraid to be insecure.
- ⇒ If the church is simply a place where believers are cared for (a kind of pastoral hospital) and taught the basics of the faith (an extension of the seminary), then it will likely lack the energy needed to generate new ideas and forms and the courage required to implement them.