



The Permanent Revolution: Apostolic Imagination and Practice for the 21st Century Church

By Alan Hirsch, Tim Catchim



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A new brand of apostolic ministry for today's world *The Permanent Revolution* is a groundbreaking work of theological re-imagination that focuses on the twin issues of ministry and leadership appropriate to our times. The authors draw widely from the areas of biblical studies, theology, organizational theory, leadership studies, and the social sciences, to make a comprehensive case for on the abiding significance of the Ephesians 4 vocations of apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd and teacher in the church that Jesus intended. They particularly emphasize the strategic importance of the apostolic role for generating missional movements, facilitating ongoing renewal in the life of the church, stimulating ecclesial innovation, and creating adaptive but highly sustainable organizations.

- Shows how to view leadership and ministry through a biblical perspective and continue "the permanent revolution" that Jesus initiated
- Outlines the essential characteristics of apostolic movements and how to restructure the church and ministry to be more consistent with them
- Alan Hirsch is a leading voice in the missional movement of the Christian West

This seminal book will likely initiate a much needed re-assessment about how we think of, and subsequently do, ministry in 21st Century contexts.



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Editorial Review

Review

A very PROVOCATIVE and INFORMATIVE book! It is an argument worth serious consideration given the problems associated with the clergy/laity dichotomy that continues to exist in so many of our churches today."

--Craig Van Gelder, professor of congregational mission, Luther Seminary

"The Permanent Revolution is an example of the kind of theological work that is urgently needed to 'equip the saints for the work of ministry' apostolically, prophetically, evangelistically, pastorally, and instructively."

--From the Foreword by Darrell Guder, Winters Luce Professor of Missional and Ecumenical Theology

"Hirsch and Catchim have opened up the difficult issue of leadership, imagination, and gifting with no holds barred. If you care about leadership and mission you will want to grapple with this book."

--Martin Robinson, president, Springdale College; National Director of Together in Mission

"The Permanent Revolution ... is a well- researched and thoroughly engaging study of the dynamic that Jesus planted at the heart of the church and now calls us to rediscover."

--Steve Addison, Australian director, Church Resource Ministries; author of *Movements That Change the World*

"Outside the New Testament, in this one man's humble opinion, The Permanent Revolution is the seminal work on apostolic ministry."

--Rob Wegner, pastor, Life Mission Granger Community Church; lead catalyst, EnterMission; experience director, Future Travelers; author, *Missional Moves*

From the Inside Flap

The Permanent Revolution

The Permanent Revolution is an original work of theological re-imagination and re-construction that draws from biblical studies, theology, organizational theory, leadership studies, and key social sciences. The book elaborates on the apostolic role rooted in the five-fold ministry from Ephesians 4 (apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers), and its significance for the missional movement.

Throughout the book, the authors propose a revolutionary missional ecclesiology that is shaped by the New Testament account of apostolic imagination, ministry, and strategy. The aim is to reclaim the ministry by which the church is to remain centered on its calling to be the instrument of God's mission, and that everything it is and does ought to relate to and demonstrate that calling. To (re)capture the practice of apostolicity, the authors explore how the apostolic ministry facilitates ongoing renewal in the life of the

church and focus on leadership in relation to missional innovation and entrepreneurship. They examine the nature of organization as reframed through the lens of apostolic ministry and explore how apostolic leadership provides new and missionally creative ways forward.

The Permanent Revolution is filled with challenging concepts and is replete with innovative ideas. Rather than providing a prescriptive model for leadership, it offers spiritual prods and suggestive thought experiments that are designed to stimulate imagination as well as action. If faithful leaders are to take up the work of ministry as laid out in the New Testament, this book offers a significant pathway to help equip them to better fulfill their mission.

From the Back Cover

Praise for the permanent revolution

"How can the church in the West reimagine itself after 1700 years of living within Christendom? Alan Hirsch and Tim Catchim address reestablishing the building blocks of the five-dimensional ministries of apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd, and teacher. While a number of books have addressed this radical challenge, none have done so with such depth, comprehensiveness, scholarly engagement, and prophetic forthrightness. It could provide the urgently needed catalyst for the revitalization of a tired and entrenched church."

--Eddie Gibbs, senior professor, School of Intercultural Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary

"At a time when being 'apostolic' has growing appeal, this book is a biblical reality check. Alan Hirsch, along with Tim Catchim, brings his trademark skill of integrating theological, organizational, and sociological insights, as well as his good-natured love of the gospel and God's people. This is sure to become a standard text in the field of church leadership studies."

--Michael Frost, author, *The Road to Missional* and *The Shaping of Things to Come*

"This book, written by one of the foremost missional thinkers of our day, addresses what I believe to be the most necessary and neglected of subjects--the equipping gifts of Ephesians 4:11. It opens the Pandora's box of missional inquiry so the rest of us can try and get our minds on a subject of wide consequence that will not likely settle back down."

--Neil Cole, founder, Church Multiplication Associates; author, *Organic Church*, *Church 3.0*, and *Journeys to Significance*

"Church leaders are increasingly aware that the big shift for us is to move from managing an institution to leading a movement. Our learning curve is steep. We need help in reimagining and redesigning our leadership beliefs and practices. This volume helps us do exactly that."

--Reggie McNeal, author, *The Present Future*, *Missional Renaissance*, and *Missional Communities*

"The Permanent Revolution is a must-read for every leader who seeks to recover the apostolic heartbeat that drives the church into God's mission."

--David Fitch, B. R. Lindner Chair of Evangelical Theology, Northern Seminary; author, *The End of Evangelicalism?*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christopher Mills:

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Lorena Repass:

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Joshua Matthews:

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