**LAW #7 - YOU MUST SEEK**

**OUT ACCOUNTABILITY**

In a missional church, lots of new life will begin to bubble up all over the place. This is something to be treasured, and often cannot immediately be properly measured or quantified, or it will be quenched at birth.

Nevertheless, smart missional leaders love accountability. The reason they do so is they recognize that it plays a counter-balance in a decentralized and highly empowering system.

This accountability will come in many forms, but if you want something that is easy to multiply (and where the pastor isn’t the bottle-neck) then:

* Gather small groups of leaders and emerging leaders
* They aim to offer one another encouragement and challenge
* You look at both character (heart) and skills (head and hands)
* It is by the invitation of the leader only

**Each church needs to think through what structures will help provide a framework where
this ongoing and consistent accountability can flourish.**

The other ingredient is to seek out input from apostolic leadership. This will be both from within the congregation, and also from outside of that local church, and is a vital component that prevents both complacency and excess.

In Ephesians 2:20, Paul reminds us that the church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, referring to the APEST (apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd, teacher) functions that he lists in Ephesians 4:11. In The Forgotten Ways, Alan Hirsch puts the importance of apostolic input like this:

 *“The reason is that the apostle (as the very name apostello suggests) is the one most responsible for, and capable to both design and lead, the ‘sentness’ of the church.”*

I realize that this might be an unfamiliar area of understanding for some, and so encourage you to check other resources that provide a foundation for understanding how each of the APEST functions feed our missional life. See, for instance, a series of talks I did that are listed on my blog at dandelionresourcing.com, and the amazing and thorough book The Permanent Revolution by Alan Hirsch and Tim Catchim.

**APPLY THE LAW:**

How can you be more accountable as you seek to grow as a leader on mission?

Where do you need to grow in your understanding and openness to healthy and mature apostolic input, both from within and beyond your local church?