

MISSIONS AND THE LOCAL CHURCH

- What is God’s perspective on “missions”? What have others said and sacrificed for missions?

A. The PARADIGM. (Acts 13-16)

B. The PRINCIPLES.

1. The _____ ("they preached the Word of God") is of primary importance; otherwise, you have nothing more than the Peace Corps. A missionary endeavor is not an end in itself but a means to a greater end - _____, _____ believers, and _____ via _____.
2. Regarding the selection of these missionaries...
 - God chose believers who were _____ serving the Lord in their _____. (Acts 13:1-2)
 - the _____ ultimately directed the selection by making it obvious to the local church _____. (13:2)
 - the local church leadership _____ about this and _____ this as being from the Lord. (13:3)
3. Regarding the qualifications and training of these missionaries...
 - the _____ of the missionary team were at least deacon qualified and probably elders in their local church. (13:1)
 - those chosen to go were _____, had some relative personal _____, spiritually _____, and practically _____ right within their home church.
 - their qualifications, giftedness, and faithfulness were _____ and _____ within their own local church _____ being involved in missions. (16:1-3)
4. Regarding the support of these missionaries...
 - it appears to have come initially via their _____. (Antioch)
 - it involved them having to act as _____, etc. at times. (Acts 18:3)
 - it also included support from _____ local churches. (Phil. 4:14-18)
 - it ultimately came from _____. (Phil. 4:19)
5. Regarding the accountability of these missionaries...
 - they were sent out by their _____. (Acts 13:3-4, 14:26)
 - they were allowed freedom to make decisions as the _____ led them. (Acts 16:6-11)
 - they gave a _____ back to their own local church by rehearsing all that _____ had done with them. (Acts 14:27)

6. **Regarding furlough...** they stayed in Antioch at their home church as "they abode a long time with the disciples." (Acts 14:28)

C. The PRIMARY CONCLUSIONS.

1. These missionaries were...

- selected from their local church
- serving in their local church
- sent out by their local church
- supported initially by their local church
- specifically accountable to their local church
- spiritually refreshed back in their local church

2. Thus, it is clear from Scripture that God has chosen _____ as the focal point of His ministry today (Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 Timothy 3:15), including missions. Any missionary agency following this biblical blueprint must view itself as a servant and not sovereign to those churches. The mission's existence must serve to enhance and facilitate this divine model and mandate given to the _____, not vice-versa.

3. The local church must, in obedience to the Holy Spirit, send those whom He separates for the task of world evangelism and church planting (Acts 13:1-3). These people who are sent by the church must be _____ men and women. In keeping with the biblical principle, they must have been discipled _____ they can disciple others. They should first be found _____ in small things before being given larger responsibilities. Those who serve the Lord as missionaries should be witnesses for Christ in their local area. They must have shown a servant's heart through faithfulness in a _____ as well as a dependent, holy life, in their _____ with the Lord.

MISSIONS AND THE PARACHURCH

{written by Dennis Rokser & approved by the elders when pastoring Duluth Bible Church, Mn}

We believe that it is the privileged responsibility of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:14-16; 2 Corinthians 5:19, 20).

We believe that local churches have the central and primary role in missions.

We believe in supporting prayerfully and financially the spreading of the Gospel and the establishment of local churches at both home and abroad, and that believers considered for missionary activities should reflect a godly walk and service for the Lord, be doctrinally sound, be directed by the Holy Spirit, be confirmed by their local church leadership, and be sent out by their local home church (Acts 13:1-5; 16:1-3; Philippians 4:14-18; Romans 15:24).

We believe that parachurch organizations have a secondary role in fulfilling the Great Commission and should be of service to local churches and their mission (Acts 14:26-28; 1 Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 13:7, 17).

PARACHURCH CONCERNS

1. The parachurch is prone to the problems of ecumenicalism or doctrinal compromise such as:
 - a. Lack of doctrinal clarity and are afraid to take a strong stand on the Gospel & other doctrines
 - b. Prone to practice the end justifies the means.

2. Prone to a lack of loyalty by individuals to any sound local church or to see the LCs biblical centrality.
3. Oftentimes, they resort to unbiblical fund-raising, etc.
4. Instead of assisting the local church, too often it is reversed, as they want your money and people.