

April 10, 2024

## **Marks of a Healthy Church Part 5: Missions**

### **Goal for This Week:**

To consider how a concern for missions makes a local church healthy.

### **Review of Past Weeks:**

Theological Reflection – \_\_\_\_\_

Because theological reflection should always begin, remain, and end with God, and because God has revealed Himself to us through His Word to transform us to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom 8:28), theology should not only be intellectual but also *transformational*, which includes our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Our Ecclesiology and Missiology flow out of our doctrine of God and leads to doxology.

In Matthew 16 we see Jesus give the keys of the kingdom of heaven to the \_\_\_\_\_  
and in Matthew 18 we see the keys of the kingdom given to \_\_\_\_\_.

The church is to be congregationally \_\_\_\_\_, elder \_\_\_\_\_, and deacon \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Mark of a Healthy Church: Missions**

What is the mission of the church (believers)? How is it manifested?

*Matthew 28:16-20*, “Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

*Acts 1:8*, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

*Ephesians 2:18-21; 3:10*, “For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord... 3:10 So that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.”

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What should churches do in missions?

1. Learn about God's heart for the nations

*Psalms 67*, "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!"

2. Pray earnestly for the spread of the gospel.

*Matthew 9:35-38*, "And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'"

3. Plan to partner for other churches.

*Philippians 1:3-5*, "I thank God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

4. Send out people who will preach the gospel.

*Romans 10:13-15*, "For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!'"

5. Pay to support those who go out to share the gospel. / Care for those you send.

*3 John 5-8*, "Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting

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nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.”

*Philippians 4:16-18*, “Even in Thessalonica you [church in Philippi] sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.”

6. Send pastors and others to help establish churches in needy areas.

*Titus 1:5*, “This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you.”

### **Theological Reflection Questions:**

How does missions begin, remain, and end with God?

How does rooting our missiology in the doctrine of God lead to doxology?

How does recognizing the local church as the means and end of missions properly place missiology in the doctrine of God?

*Ephesians 1:4-5; 5:25-27*, “Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be *holy and blameless* before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will... 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleaned her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be *holy and without blemish*.”

*Revelation 19:6-8*, “Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure’ – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.”

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**Resources That Will Be Used This Semester:**

Akin, Daniel L. *10 Who Changed the World*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2012.

Clark, Elliot. *Mission Affirmed: Recovering The Missionary Motivation of Paul*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2022.

Dever, Mark. *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021.

DeYoung, Kevin and Greg Gilbert. *What Is the Mission of the Church?: Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011.

George, Timothy and Denise George. *Baptist Confessions, Covenants, and Catechisms*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing, 1996.

Hammett, John S. *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches: A Contemporary Ecclesiology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2005.

Leeman, Jonathan. *One Assembly: Rethinking the Multisite & Multiservice Church Models*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020.

Leeman, Jonathan and Gregory A. Wills. *The Rule of Love: How the Local Church Should Reflect God's Love and Authority*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018.

Ott, Craig. *The Church on Mission: A Biblical Vision for Transformation among All People*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019.

Piper, John. *Let the Nations Be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Missions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010.