

May 8, 2024

## **The Sending Church & The Receiving Church: Who Should the Missionary be Responsible To?**

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

To consider who missionaries are primarily responsible to? Is it the sending church, receiving (local) church, or the mission agency?

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

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 the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of missions because the church is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ helping the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (the *means*) get ready for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (the *end*).

“Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. *Missions exists because worship doesn't*. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever.”

The task of the missionary is to do the task of the \_\_\_\_\_, which means the missionary (or missionary family or team) are individual representatives of the local church who sends them to do their sending church's task in a different region of the world.

### **Who Should the Missionary be Responsible To?**

Who has the primary responsibility to care the missionary: the sending church, the local church, or the mission agency?

*1 Peter 5:1-3*, “So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.”

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Who has the authority over the missionary if they are found in sin: the sending church, the local church, or the mission agency?

*Matthew 18:17-18*, “If he [someone found in sin] refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

### **Objections to the Local Church as Being Responsible for the Missionary**

1. “If I could get a corn every time a heard a missionary say, ‘Don’t get involved in a church, it will mess up your ministry.’” – Mack Stiles

*Ephesians 4:11-16*, “And he gave... the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, making the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

2. Joining a local church would compromise my security on the ground.

*Hebrews 10:24-25*, “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

3. Joining a local church would westernize local Christians.

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*1 Corinthians 9:19-23*, “For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessing.”

4. What about the urgency of the task? Joining a local church will get in the way of the fast pace church planting movement.

Sending Church Responsibility

Receiving (Local) Church Responsibility

Mission Agency Responsibility

**Resources That Are Used This Semester:**

May 8, 2024

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.