



CHRISTIANITY Q&A "What Do We Mean by Mission?" John 17:12-18

No. 5075

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Emil Brunner said, "The Church exists by mission as fire exists by burning." The evangelical church needs to be particularly aware of the nature, the necessity, and the nurture of mission if it is to avoid degenerating into a heap of ashes.

I. The Necessity of the Church's Mission.

Note: "Mission" (L. "missio," a sending) being sent out with authority to perform a special duty."

A. The character of God.

1. He sent His spokesmen—the prophets.
2. He sent His Son—the Savior. Galatians 4:4
3. He sent His Spirit—the Comforter. John 14:26
4. He sent His servants—the disciples. John 17:18
5. He sent the Scriptures—the Word. Isaiah 55:11

B. The call of Christ.

1. The call to obtain comfort. Matthew 11:28, 30
2. The call to obey commands. John 13:34
3. The call to observe commissioning. Matthew 28:19, 20

C. The constitution of the Church.

1. Constituted to be pervasive as leaven. Matthew 13:33
2. Constituted to be preservative as salt. Matthew 5:13
3. Constituted to be penetrative as light. Matthew 5:14

II. The Nature of the Church's Mission.

A. Mission was modeled in Christ's ministry.

1. He announced a unique Kingdom.
2. He purchased a universal freedom.
3. He evidenced an unusual compassion.
4. He presented an unequivocal challenge.

B. Mission is mandated by man's make-up.

1. Man is not a soul-less body.
2. Man is not a body-less soul.
3. Man is not a soul-body in isolation.

C. Mission was mapped out in Christ's mandate.

1. To teach what He commanded.
2. To continue all He started.
3. To facilitate what He desires.

III. The Nurturing of the Church's Mission.

A. Nurturing through correctives.

1. Correcting selfish attitudes.
2. Correcting erroneous impressions.
3. Correcting unbalanced positions.

B. Nurturing through directives.

1. Directing towards theology of mission.
2. Directing towards history of mission.
3. Directing towards opportunity of mission.

C. Nurturing through initiatives.

1. Initiating a mission vision.
2. Initiating a mission experience.
3. Initiating a mission commitment.