

Missions:

The Glory of God in the Gospel of Jesus Christ Manifested in the Church around the World

Part 3: Missions Must Be Ecclesiological

Sunday, May 24, 2009

Colossians 1:18(a)

INTRODUCTION:

Missions: the glory of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ, manifested in the church around the world. God's mission to bring Himself glory by dispensing the riches of His excellence to His people is accomplished exclusively through the atoning death of His Messiah, the Son Jesus. And as we will look at tonight, the Son will accomplish His work of missions through His body, the church.

Colossian 1:18(a) "and He [Jesus] is the head of the body, the church."

Five Characteristics of the Church As Designed By God from Col 1:18(a)

"He [Jesus] is also head of the body, church."

- 1. The church is a called-out people**
- 2. The church is an assembled people**
- 3. The church is a regulated people**

Here are some commands from the Pastoral Epistles:

Protect God's people from false teaching (1 Tim 1:3ff; 4:1-6); Pray for government leaders (1 Tim 2:1-8); Instruct women (1 Tim 2:9-15); Read the Word publicly (1 Tim 4:13); Exhort and teach (1 Tim 4:13); Confront sin (1 Tim 5:1-2; 20-21); Care for widows (1 Tim 5:3ff); Ordain some for service (1 Tim 5:22,24-25); Instruct slaves, instruct the rich (1 Tim 6); Cling to truth and faith and love in Christ (2 Tim 1:13); Disciple men (2 Tim 2:2); Rehearse the Gospel (2 Tim 2:8-13); Teach holy living (2 Tim 2:19-23); Refute and correct false teaching (2 Tim 2:23-26); Sniff out wolves (2 Tim 3:1-9; 4:15); Prepare God's people for persecution (2 Tim 3:10-12); Continue to teach, reprove, correct, and train with the God-breathed Word (2 Tim 3:14-17); Preach the Word (2 Tim 4:1-4); Do the work of evangelism (2 Tim 4:5; see also Eph 4:12); Appoint qualified leadership (Tit 1:5-9); Silence rebellious men and false teachers (Tit 1:10-16); Speak sound doctrine (Tit 2:1); Instruct men and women (Titus 2:1-8); Rehearse the Gospel and its effects (Titus 2:9-15; 3:3-8); Teach God's people to submit to the authorities over them (Tit 3:1); Encourage godly living (Tit 3:8); Avoid foolish controversies (Tit 3:9); Reject factious people (Tit 3:10-11); Encourage God's people to meet pressing needs (Tit 3:14)

4. The church is a Christological people

5. The church is an interdependent people

Here are the “one-another” commands of the New Testament

Greet One Another, Speak truthfully to One Another, Be at peace with One Another, Stimulate One Another to Love/Good deeds, Do not slander One Another, Comfort One Another, Be kind to One Another, Pray For One Another, Prefer One Another, Submit To One Another, Be Devoted To One Another, Accept One Another, Care For One Another, Do Not Sue One Another, Do Not Envy One Another, Admonish One Another, Bear One Another's Burdens, Build Up One Another, Comfort One Another, Confess Your Sins to One Another, Encourage One Another, Exhort One Another, Forgive One Another

How The Church Fits In To The Big Picture Of What God Is Doing.

(Col 1:13-20)

Some Implications For How We Do Missions.

1. Missions must be ecclesiological.
2. The church must be missiological.
3. We must be people who are whole-heartedly committed to the local church.
4. We must send people who are whole-heartedly committed to the local church.
5. We must send people who are equipped to establish and build up local churches.
6. We must understand the slow nature of local church reproduction.
7. We must place priorities on the kinds of mission we do.