



You Asked About...

The Mission of the Church

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This has been a very interesting series. We have looked at many important and certainly very diverse topics. Today we come to a topic about which several questions were asked. We will try to answer these by looking at the bigger question: *What is the Mission of the Church?*

RECALLING THE CHURCH TO ITS REASON FOR BEING

The church is the **community** of the **called out**.

Matthew 16:18-19, *On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.* (NIV)

We are the **people of God** who are called, formed, and sent by the Spirit of God.

John 20:19, *I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me.* (CEV)

Acts 1:8, *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere.* (NLT)

We are a missionary people by nature.

We exist to participate in God's mission by engaging the context in which we are planted with the transforming power of the Gospel.

When we lose sight of our **mission**, we have lost sight of our reason for being.

The missional church is one that is seriously wrestling with one simple question: *Why do we exist as a church?*

A THREE-FOLD CHALLENGE

As a church, we must **see** missionally.

John 4: 35, *I tell you, open your eyes and look.* (NIV)

Three causes for "harvest blindness"

1. **Preoccupation** with ourselves (inward focus)
2. **Prejudice** toward sinners
3. **Conventional** thinking

As a church we must **plan** missionally.

John 4: 35, *I tell you, open your eyes and look.* (NIV)

Three important words:

1. **Content** -- The Gospel (Romans 1:16)
2. **Context** -- The cultural arena in which the message is shared (John 1:14)

3. **Contextualization** -- A strategic bridge-building process (1 Cor. 9:19-23)

As a church, we must **pray** missionally.

Matthew 5:38, *Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. (NIV)*

THE QUEST TO BE A MISSIONAL CHURCH

A quest is a journey you feel **compelled** to take – something you have to do – not knowing exactly where it may lead or being sure of how you will get there or if you will survive the journey.

John 4: 3-4, *He left Judea, and departed again into Galilee. And he must needs go through Samaria. (KJV)*

Acts 15: 19, *We should not make it hard for the non-Jews who are turning to God.*