

THE GREAT CONNECTION FOR THE GREAT COMMISSION:

The Local Church and the Missionary

THE CHURCH'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE MISSIONARY'S SENDING

11/6/16

MAIN IDEA: *The church must be directly involved in developing and sending out missionaries.*

- I. **WHO IS SENT?** The church is responsible to *develop* teachers and leaders from within and then *send* them out into missionary service (Acts 13:1).
 - A. Home *base must be* maintained . . . *three teachers stayed, two went out.*
 - B. New ground *must be* covered . . . *there is always more work to be done in other areas (cp. Acts 13:3).*
 - C. Faithful ministry *must be* exercised . . . *those who were already serving faithfully in the church were sent out.*

- II. **HOW ARE THEY SENT?** The church must be *sensitive* to the Holy Spirit in sending out missionaries (Acts 13:2, 4).
 - A. *The Spirit gives* direction as the leadership and the church serve the Lord in prayer and fasting (Acts 13:2a).
Just as the Spirit sends out missionaries who are already *serving* Him faithfully, so the Spirit directs the church which is already *seeking* Him faithfully.
 - B. *The Spirit calls on the church to* cooperate with Him in the work of missions (Acts 13:2b, 4).
 - The Spirit has *separated* and *called* His own for His service (cp. Gal. 1:15-16) . . . so He commands the church to *separate* certain ones that He has already called (Acts 13:2b).
 - The Spirit *sends* out missionaries (Acts 13:4a), and the church *cooperates* with that sending (Acts 13:3b).

- I. **WHY ARE THEY SENT?** The church must *send* them out in order that they may be an *extension* of its ministry throughout the world (Acts 13:3).
 - A. *The sending is accompanied by* spiritual preparation—fasting and prayer (13:3a).
Just as fasting and prayer were involved in the *selecting* of the missionaries (Acts 13:2a), so they were involved in the *sending* also (Acts 13:3a).
 - B. *The sending is accompanied by* mutual identification—*laying on of hands* (13:3b).
 - The *purpose* of laying on of hands is *identifying* with them in their ministry—they are not going out *alone*.
 - The *result* of laying on of hands is *connecting* with them in their ministry—they go out as an *extension* of the church's ministry.

❖ *The church must be proactive in developing missionaries from within the church.*

❖ *Believers in the church must be faithfully serving and available to go into missions if God calls.*

❖ *Believers/leaders in the church must be sensitive to the Spirit's direction concerning who should go.*

❖ *The church must identify with those sent out and consider them their representatives on the field.*

How can the church be more effective in developing missionaries? What areas of faithfulness in service need to be implemented? Do you have Moses' (Ex. 3-4) or Isaiah's (Isa. 6:1-8) attitude concerning going? How can you personally identify and support missionaries on the field?