

Biblical Sending: How Will They Preach Unless They Are Sent?

Romans 10:12-15

July 22, 2018

The big question we need to answer as a church and as individuals is “What does it mean for us to be biblical senders?”

I. You need to commit to sending because God is committed to sending.

Each time He sent one of His people, God went with them. More than that, He demonstrates His commitment to sending by ultimately sending Himself - Jesus. This is the kind of commitment to sending that we need to have.

By committing to being a sending church and a sending people, we are really committing to being thankful to God for sending His Son, Jesus, and changing our posture from “if we send” to “when we send.”

To have a commitment to biblical sending we need to start taking steps both as individuals and as a family toward being a church *of* senders instead of a church *with* a sending program.

II. You need to be as intentional about sending as God is about saving.

“ ... for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation... ”

- **Revelation 5:9**

“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands...”

- **Revelation 7:9**

Being intentional about sending means we are careful to align our priorities and efforts with God’s ultimate priority of saving some people from all nations, tribes, peoples, and languages.

A. Ditch one - We can focus all of our sending efforts on people and places who already know who to call out to for salvation.

Currently about 3 billion people will likely live their entire lives without any human means of hearing the Gospel.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” - **Acts 1:8**

B. Ditch two - We can focus all of our sending efforts around meeting physical or temporal needs.

We are the only people on Earth who can bring the hope of eternal life after death through faith in Jesus Christ. To preach Christ - crucified, risen, and returning - that is our calling. That is *our* privilege!

John Piper captured it well when he said, “Christians care about all suffering, especially eternal suffering.”

Wherever we send, we hope to do whatever we can to ease temporal human suffering. But we must do whatever we have to do in order to address their biggest, eternal problem of standing condemned to hell by a holy God. We can only do that by preaching Christ.

III. You need to be working at becoming as skilled at sending, as God is at sustaining those who He sends.

In **Ephesians 4:11-16**, This “work of ministry” Paul is describing includes the Great Commission to make disciples among all people of the earth! - “for building up the body of Christ.”

“Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore, we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.” - **3 John 5-8**

Sending is a skill that needs to be practiced if we hope to send our people in a manner worthy of God. The places God is sending His people to are only going to get harder and darker the closer we get to finishing the Great Commission.

Questions to ask yourself:

Who am I sending in a manner worthy of the Lord?

What are my next steps?

Should I read *Serving as Senders*?

Could I join a Barnabas Team?

How will I start praying for our cross-cultural workers?

Does God want me to go on a short-term trip?