



Cultivating a Missions Mindset

INTRODUCTION

Conviction 10: Christ's commission is both domestic and global. The church is accountable to evangelize and to equip those in its own locale, practicing locally the kind of ministry it desires to support internationally. Domestic disciple-making through evangelizing and training bolsters the global mission endeavor. As the church deepens its love for Christ, for fellow saints, and for the lost in its own area, the church is then to support missionaries who do the same overseas.

- A. Christ's commission has a local component.
 - 1. We observe local/regional ministry in the NT.
 - 2. We want our global efforts to be an extension of what we do locally.
- B. Christ's commission has a global component.
 - 1. God will save from all nations of the earth.
 - 2. We want to support meaningful, global endeavors.

Conviction 11: The priority of missions is to plant churches that reproduce themselves. As one observes the mission endeavors of the early church, the task of missions can be summarized as (a) preaching the gospel with no regard for gender, nationality, or ethnicity; (b) seeking the conversion of people's lives by the power of the Spirit; (c) incorporating converts into planted churches under the oversight of biblical leadership; (d) teaching new converts to obey all that Christ commanded; (e) encouraging, equipping, and mobilizing converts to share the gospel in their locales; and (f) training and supporting new missionaries to be sent out from those communities to plant other churches which reproduce themselves. Planting healthy churches is the priority of missions.

- A. Jesus promises to build His church (Matt 16:18).
- B. The GC entails church planting (Matt 28:19–20).
- C. New churches are the normative result of evangelism and conversion.

“Proclaiming the gospel meant for Paul not simply an initial preaching or with it the reaping of converts; it included also a whole range of nurturing and strengthening activities which led to the firm establishment of congregations . . . The activities in which Paul engaged as he sought to fulfill his missionary commission included not only primarily evangelism through which men and women were converted, but the founding of churches and the bringing of believers to full maturity in Christ” (*Salvation to the Ends of the Earth*, 184)

Conviction 12: Prayer is essential for faithfulness in missions. Missions moved forward by prayer magnifies God. The Lord alone will be exalted for His abundant mercy (Rom 11:30–36). Redemption is a spiritual work, and the power necessary to accomplish the task of Christ’s commission comes from the Spirit, not from man-made strategies. *Unbelievers* will be converted when the Spirit engenders saving faith, dissolves hard hearts, and produces repentance and a transformed life. *Believers* will be committed to Christ’s commission only when the Spirit acts in the hearts of saints, producing people who are emboldened to share the gospel, who are spurred toward generous support, who are preoccupied with the seriousness of eternity, and who are desirous to cross barriers of language, culture, and distance to advance the gospel (2 Thess 3:1).

- A. The relationship of prayer to ministry
- B. The impossibility of missions without prayer
- C. Prayer and the history of missions