

Missions - A Cord of Three Strands

Sunday, February 5, 2023
10:15 AM

2 Corinthians 2:15

15 For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.

Notice first that he says WE not I

Missions is done in partnership. As a local church we partner with the missionaries to help send them to the field. In fact it take many church partners as well as individual partners to send a single missionary to the field.

But not only is there a partnership between supporters and missionaries; there is a partnership within the church it takes all of us

Giving together to make our missions support possible

The wisdom of Solomon speaks of the effectiveness of working together.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: 10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. 11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

There is another partnership in Missions that I want to focus on today. A cord of three strands that is not easily broken

I believe that in Missions this cord consists of

1. Compassion
2. Evangelism
3. Discipleship

Paul speaks of the pleasing aroma of Christ. What is more pleasing about Christ than his love and compassion. Both for those who already believe and those who are lost

It is important that we be the aroma of Christs love and compassion

When we go we bring with us the compassionate love of Christ. This is why many Missionaries find ways to serve and minister to the people they are called to reach. Meeting physical needs of individuals and communities opens doors that can often not be opened by other means.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son (John 3:16)

But compassion is not enough by itself

Mark 6:7, 12-13

7 Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.

12 They went out and preached that people should repent. 13 They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Evangelism is the next strand in Gods Rope of Rescue

Simply put, evangelism is telling people the good news about Jesus Christ and calling upon them

To put their faith in Him

Mark 16:15

15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

The good news is that Jesus is Gods only Son who came to live a sinless life on our behalf and die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sin and our restoration as sons and daughters of God. His [resurrection](#) from the grave demonstrates the good news of God's gift of eternal life, victory over sin, darkness, death, hell and the grave, His power to change and have new life.

The good news is John 3:16 and 17

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

The good news is John 14:6

John 14:6

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

But Paul reminds us that without Evangelism this good news does no good

Romans 10:13-14

13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Compassion without Evangelism is not Missions

But in order for the Cord of three strands to be complete we need more than Compassion and Evangelism. We need Discipleship.

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Believing in Christ is just the beginning. He wants continued relationship with us and in that relationship he wants us to learn and grow and put into practice His teachings

John 8:31-32

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Missions must not be satisfied with reaching out in Compassion with the Love of God, Missions must not stop with creating converts, Missions must make disciples.

That's what Paul did...

Acts 18:11-12

11 So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

Acts 19:8-10

8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. 9 But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. 10 This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

Acts 19:20

20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

Acts 28:30-31

30 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. 31 He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

And that is what we must do too. We must look for and partner with Missionaries that incorporate all three strands of Compassion, Evangelism and Discipleship and we must DO Missions right here in our own Mission Field using Compassion, Evangelism and Discipleship.

Compassion alone will not get them saved

Evangelism that lacks compassion will not be received

Evangelism without discipleship will create weak and ineffective believers who will not continue in their relationship with Jesus, will be easily discouraged and deceived by the enemy or will live a carnal Christian life that lack the true power of God's kingdom

Discipleship alone will often lead to legalism

But all three of these strands used in conjunction with the power and anointing of The Holy Spirit will produce a harvest of righteousness for The Kingdom of God