

MY UNDERSTANDING OF: “MISSION” & “THE GREAT Commission”

“mission” = the Great Commission (Mt 28:19-20, Acts 1:8, Mt 24:14)

The Great Commission

= **task/project/program** (*Doing* for God)

What - Making disciples

How - Going, baptizing, teaching

Where - Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, end of the earth

When - The end of the age **POPULAR UNDERSTANDING**

POPULAR UNDERSTANDING OF: “MISSION” & “THE GREAT Commission”

MAKING DISCIPLES:

(1) Mat. 28:19-20 (**dialogical**)

(2) Acts 14:21 “They preached the gospel in that city (Antioch in Syria) and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch.” (**descriptive**)

WESTERN CULTURAL VALUES

“If it walks like a duck, quacks like a duck,
it must be a duck.”

“Doing” → “Being”

- Identity: action, achievement

“Performance” → “Personhood”

- Success: quantifiable outcomes

OBSESSION:

Program & performance/action & achievement/task

RELATIONAL APPROACH

The Trinity = Relational God (Father, Son, H.S.)

Love, fellowship, glory (transcends time & space)

Christianity = Relational faith (vertical relationship)

IN: election,

creation,

salvation,

sanctification,

glorification

RELATIONAL APPROACH

Mission does not begin in history with Abraham & Israel of OT, the Church in NT

Theologically, “mission” is “*missio Dei*” within the Trinity

In eternity past, God the Father gave to his Son (a chosen people) & commissioned His Son to redeem them by the help of His Spirit (Luke 22:29; John 6:37–40; Heb. 9:14)

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “**All authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go **therefore** and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of **the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am with you always**, to the end of the age.”

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

⁸ 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.”

(“witnesses”- Luke 24:48)

“mission” is a matter of relationally “sending” and “being sent”

The Trinity:

- The Father sent the Son to be His witness (Jn 4:34, 17:4).
- “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (Jn 14:26); to witness for the Son (Jn 15:26) & to glorify the Son (Jn 16:13-15)

“mission” is a matter of relationally “sending” and “being sent”

Christians:

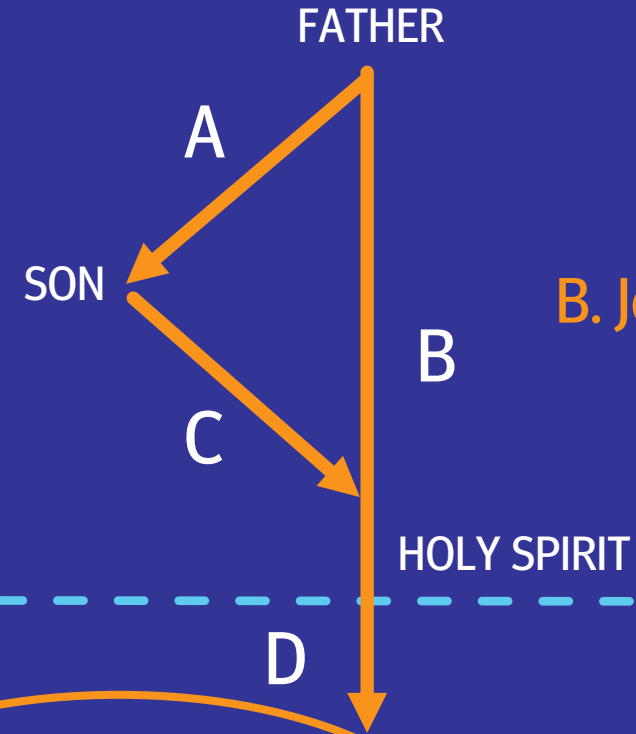
- Jesus said, “As the Father sent me, so send I you” (Jn 118, 20:21)
- At the ascension of Jesus Christ, He said, “But you shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”(Acts 1:8)

DIVINITY

- Self-Existing
- Infinite
- Transcendent
- Perfect

A. Luke 4:43

B. John 14:16



HUMANITY

- Created
- Finite
- Imperfect

C. John 16:7

D. John 20:21; Acts 13:2

Mission is Christians (individuals) and the Church (institutional) continuing on and carrying out the missio Dei of the Triune God (“mission”) at both individual and institutional levels spiritually (saving soul) and socially (ushering in shalom*) for redemption, reconciliation, and transformation (“**missions**”).

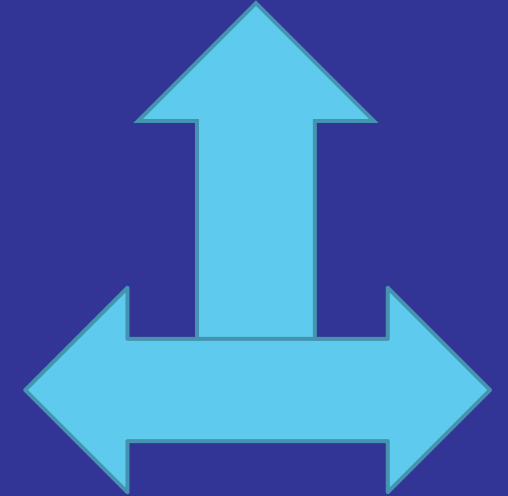
** “shalom” is the context of total wellness in which created humanity can reach his/her full potential and properly respond to God and his message relationally (Jer 29:7; 1 Tim 2:1-5)*

Integrated Holistic Christian Missions: Practice

Practice:

Vertically: God's grace & love received

Horizontally: charity and sharing with others



Goal:

- Reconciliation
- Redemption
- Transformation

evangelism/discipleship
friendship/partnership

As the Son bearing witness to the Father, and HS bearing witness to the Father and the Son, His redeemed children are to be primarily His witnesses, as listed below:

- The disciples - “...You are my witnesses...” (Lk 24:45-47) and those at Christ’s ascension - “you... will be my witnesses...” (Acts 1:8)
- Lazarus at the banquet with Jesus as a witness of His resurrection power leading many to faith, The Jews plotted to kill him because his being there was a powerful witness; though doing nothing (Jn 12:9-11).

As the Son bearing witness to the Father, and HS bearing witness to the Father and the Son, His redeemed children are to be primarily His witnesses, as listed below:

- The dying penitent thief accepted Christ as Lord and Master and received assurance from Jesus Christ of a place in paradise (Mt 27:38, Lk 23:32-43 and Mk 15:27). He was a powerful witness of God's unmerited redeeming grace; without doing anything else other than acknowledging Jesus as Lord. He is a witness of God's unmerited favor bestowed upon an unworthy individual without making disciples.
- In eternity, we shall continue to witness God's grace and glory forever.

Relational Understanding and Practice

PRIMARY

SECONDARY *(Popular Approach)*

Being (Witnessing)	+	Doing (making disciples/task)
Personhood (by God: who we are)	+	Performance (for God: what we do)
Messenger (God working in us)	+	Method (God working through us)
Serving God (ministering to others)	+	Saving souls (Vocational missionary)
The Great Commandment plus priesthood of believers: BAM, NGO		The Great Commission
Vertical + horizontal (love God & neighbors)	+	[vertical] + Horizontal (success: quantifiable outcomes)
Relational mission & ministry	+	Managerial/Programmatic
Process (love, fellowship & glory)	+	Program (performance, task, etc...)

RELATIONAL PARADIGM

= Vertical + horizontal relationships

= the essence of Christian faith & practice

If Christianity is likened to

“chicken soup”

“relationship” is

the genuine chicken.

MAXIM

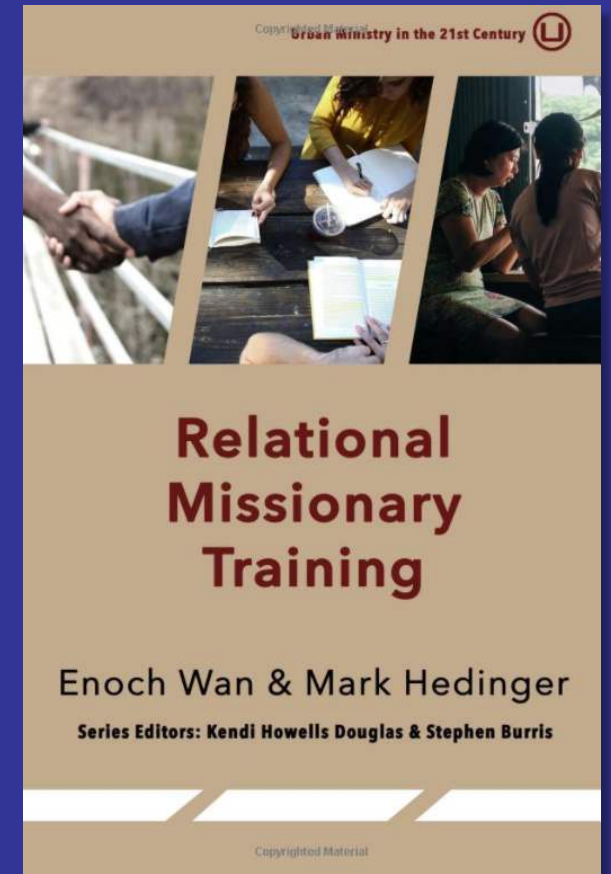
The heart of the matter
is the matter of the
“heart”

Christian Mission & Ministry

= **vertical** + horizontal

Christian Ministry is

- Serving **in Christ's name** (*motivation*)
- Doing it **for His sake** (*attitude*)
- Operating **by His ____** (*serving*)
- guidance & power; enablement & empowerment
- Best stewardship **for His glory** (*ultimate goal*)



Relational Approach

Relational Approach

Transcends time & space

- Missio Dei: Trinity & Xns
- Love, fellowship & glory

Holistic & Integrated

- 1st Being + 2nd Doing
- Great Commandment + Great Commission

Popular Approach

Over-contextualized (western)

- Christians: Making disciples
- Program will end

Misguided Emphasis on 2ndary

- 2nd doing performance
- Great Commission

Priesthood of believers: BAM, NGO, etc.

BEING (Christians witnessing)

- Imago Dei – image bearer of the Creator (Gen 1:26-28; 9:1-7)
- Blessings to nations – Abrahamic covenant (Gen 12:1-7)
- Light to the nations - Children of Abraham (Gen 17:1-14) & Israel
= God's elect of the OT are to be “light to the nations”
(Is 42:6; 49:6 cf. Mt 4:16).
- God's children in the NT
(4 identities: chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession - 1Pet 2:9) – “...declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light”