

What do we mean by the term “mission of God” (*missio Dei*)?

The mission of God is the totality of God’s task in the redemption, renewal and restoration of humankind, creation, and justice for the glory of His Name.

{see Genesis 12:1-3; Matthew 4:17; Matthew 24:14; Romans 8:22; I Peter 2:9-10}

Identifying the Mission of God:

- a) The Lord’s Prayer & life of Jesus (Matt. 6:9-10; Lk 4:17-19)
- b) What is God doing in the world?
- c) What does God want to do in the world?

Mission is decisively Trinitarian.

- a) The Father sent the Son {I John 4:14; John 17:18}
- b) The Father & Son sent the Spirit {John 15:26; Galatians 5:6}
- c) The Son sends the Church {John 20:21; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8}

God initiates and sustains mission through calling and sending.

{Abraham: Genesis 12:1-3; Moses-Exodus 3:10; Israel: Isaiah 49:6; the Apostles: John 17:18; Church: Acts 1:8}

God ordained His mission before He created His church.

- a) Matthew 28:18-20 & Acts 1:8 come before Pentecost
- b) God is a missionary God

South African missiologist David Bosch: *“It is not the church which undertakes mission; it is the missio Dei which constitutes the church.”* Or stated in a slightly different manner; *“it is not so much that God has a mission for his church in the world, but that God has a church for his mission in the world”*

Danger: church shifts from God-centric (doxological & missional) to “how God/church meets my needs” (consumerism)

Church is the visible evidence of God’s invisible activity in the world.

By definition and by nature, a disciple of Jesus is missional.

- a) As Christ-followers, we follow Him as participants in His mission (John 17:18; John 20:21)
- b) God redeems us to restore us as His missionary people (I Peter 2:9-10; 2 Cor. 5:20)