

Principles (or Questions) for Navigating Mission Field Relationships

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What is our relationship with our missionaries? We are _____ together in the gospel (3 John 5-8)

I. Navigating Relationship 1: Church to Missionary

A. Are there any absolute necessities in our relationship? The essential characteristic needed between church and missionary is _____.

B. What Characteristics do we look for in our Missionaries so trust can be established and latitude given to them to make calls regarding relationships and partnerships on the field?

1. Do you know what you _____ and are you convinced it is biblical?
2. Can you _____?
3. Are you a bold _____?
4. Are you committed to biblical _____ in your own life and ministry?
5. Do you know your _____ so you can recognize errors, trends and have foresight to take greater care in the present to avoid many problems in the future?
6. Are you willing to explain to other believers where you _____ - when given the opportunity?
7. Are you _____ in your interaction, hoping it leads to information and consideration, rather than self-justified isolation?
8. Are you _____?
9. Are you godly? If you are right but not godly, do you realize the harm you can do?

II. Navigating Relationship 2: Missionary to Church

A. *Is a missionary able and willing to clearly communicate their _____ and their missions _____?*

B. *In the current church landscape, how do we determine which churches we can partner with in missions endeavors?*

We ask churches to be willing to agree to the following statements before we will get involved in a partnership with them:

1. For the sake of the _____ of the gospel, believers and churches must separate from those who deny essential doctrines of the faith (Jude 3; 2 John 9-11; Rom 16:17).

2. For the sake of the _____ of the gospel, believers and churches must separate from those who compromise the faith by granting Christian recognition and fellowship to those who have denied essential doctrines of the faith (Rom 16:17; Phil 3:17-19; cf. 2 Thess 3:6-15).

3. For the sake of the _____ of the gospel, believers and churches must strive to reflect God's holiness and to live differently than those who have not experienced the saving grace of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:15-16; Eph 4:17-19).

C. *Why do we do this, rather than just require they only go to Fundamental Churches?*

D. *A corollary: How can missionaries interact with clearly non-separatist organizations and boards?*

III. Navigating Relationship 3: Missionary to Mission Field

A. *The Missionary's Relationship to the Host Culture*

1. What is Culture? It is the _____ or set of values assumed by people living in a particular time and place.

2. How should a missionary look at his host culture?

See Mark Snoeberger's 2008 MACP Workshop: "More Notes Toward a Definition of Culture," p. 8:

A missionary must look at the host culture with a biblical worldview—it is _____ and is an expression of the _____ of its people.

B. The Missionary's Relationship to National Believers and Leaders

1. What has been their _____?
2. What are their current _____ connections?
3. What is their commitment to the Word of God? Are they _____ and willing to be instructed?
4. What is their commitment to indigenous ministry?

IV. Navigating Relationship 4: Missionary to Missionary

- A. What do they believe?*
- B. How are they _____?*
- C. How do they prioritize evangelism and church planting? Consider the nature and philosophy of missions which is the foundation of their work.*
- D. Are they committed to the purity, clarity and credibility of the gospel or are they moving in the right direction?*
- E. Do I struggle to decide whether partnering will help make our church or church planting movement bigger or stronger?*
- F. Do I have a long-term outlook regarding the multiplications of churches and the eventual supply of workers?*
- G. Would it be wiser to enjoy personal fellowship and to minister to the multitudes separately?*