

# Biblical Missiology: The Antioch Church Model

## Towards a Biblical Philosophy of the Local Church

By Pastor Bob Bixby

**Text:** Acts 13:1-3

**Date:** Sunday, November 15, 2009

**Series:** Biblical Missiology

### Tabernacle Baptist Church

7020 Barrington Road

Hanover Park, Illinois 60133

**Website:** [www.GodCentered.info](http://www.GodCentered.info)

**Acts 13:1-3**, "Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off."

Introduction to the Antioch Model. Tonight we will look at:

- The **Context** of the Antioch Model
- The **Constituency** of the Antioch Model
- The **Character** of the Antioch leaders
- The **Consonance** of the Antioch work
- The **Commission-Orientation** of the Antioch Church

#### I. The **Context** of the Antioch Model

##### A. It was the local church

1. local: because it was "at Antioch." Every congregation is somewhere in time and space.
2. Church: because it was a congregation.

##### B. The local church is the prized venue of God's work

What is a church?

- Society of people called by the word to the obedience of the faith of Christ, and joint performance of the worship of God in the same individual ordinances, according to the order by Christ prescribed (John Owen, 1600s)
- United by God and committed to one another (Dever)
- It is the 'pillar and ground of the truth' (Paul)

As geographically accessible and strategically located for world-wide evangelism as Antioch was in it is day almost any city in modern USA is far more so. We have no excuse. The burden of the **Great Commission** is just as much ours as it was theirs.

#### II. The **constituency** of the antioch church

##### A. prophets and teachers

##### B. apostles

##### C. possibly 1 of the 7 (Acts 6)

This was a church filled with leaders!

- III. the **character** of the antioch leaders
  - A. There was Christ-centered service - "to the Lord"
  - B. There was consensual self-denial "they fasted"
  - C. There was commission by setting-apart "they set apart Paul and Barnabas"
  
- IV. The **consonance** of the antioch church
  - "same sound" (Matthew 18:19)
  - The utter dependence of the early church on prayer is unmistakable in Acts.
  
- V. The **coordinator** of the antioch work
  - A. It is the Holy Spirit.
  - B. There is objective determination of God's will.
  - C. There is also subjective determination of God's will. influence by
    - The Word of God
    - The personality of leaders
    - Providence
    - Gifts and location of church
  
- V. the **commission-orientation** of the antioch church
  - A. Their location was suitable for Western expansion
  - B. Their attitude toward outsiders was warm and embracing
  - C. They sent their own leaders to do the work