

God is a Sending God

Key Scripture Passage:

As the Father has sent Me, Even So I am sending you.—John 20:21

MAIN IDEA:

As God sent the Son into the world, so we are a sent or simply a missionary people.

The *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology* defines “mission” as “the divine activity of sending intermediaries whether supernatural or human to speak or do God’s will so that God’s purposes for judgment or redemption are furthered.”

THEOLOGICAL TRUTHS:

1. God sends in order to fulfill His purposes.
2. God sends Jesus in order to fulfill His purpose.
3. God sends us in order to fulfill His purpose.

SUMMARY:

God is a sending God. The Sender (God) sent Jesus. The Sent One (Jesus) has now become the Sender, commissioning (ie. Sending) his followers to serve as his messengers and representatives (cf. 17:18).

All three persons of the Godhead are involved in this commissioning: as the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus sends his disciples (20:21), equipping them with the Holy Spirit (v. 22).

It is part of the fundamental structure of any *sending*, even the sending of a mere human being, that the one sent does not follow his own will, but that of the sender, and that he does not speak and act in his own name, but represents another.