

Sending Churches: Biblical Roots

Q: Where does the phrase “sending church” come from?

A: In its purest biblical form you would look to the book of Acts [Acts 13:1-3], where they sent out a couple of their key leaders WHO became incredible church planters. That would be the genesis of the phrase “sending church” from the biblical perspective.

But I think even past that, in our North American tradition, as we have seen the rise of missionary agencies, we want to make sure that those agencies are really in alignment with local churches. And so at least in our context we talk about “a sending church.”

We see the sending church as really the entity that gives credibility, that has spiritual authority over the missionary, and that is the one that is the overseer of that person entering into the ministry—and then, in an ongoing way, relating to that missionary when they’re on the field.