

# Biblical Mission Pt. 2

## *Module 3.10*

In part one of our shared commitment to Biblical Mission<sup>1</sup>, we considered the aspect of the church's mission that most directly affects the individual; the aspect of discipleship. In this module, as we continue exploring our shared commitment to Biblical Mission, we will focus on the local church and our Fellowship. To that end, this module seeks to outline our commitment to Biblical Mission through planting churches, training leaders and doing good.

Beginning first with training leaders, our shared commitment states that, "*we affirm God's plan for this age includes the recognition, training, and releasing of spiritually qualified and appropriately trained leaders.*" By this we mean that it is the responsibility, and obligation, of current leaders to always be developing and equipping future leaders so that the body of Christ may continually be built up (Ephesians 4:12).

Furthermore, we understand the building of the body to be the principle purpose of spiritual gifts and as such we also affirm that, "*While the specific gifts, abilities, and responsibilities of leaders may vary, all leaders must serve as servants of God, shepherds of God's people, and stewards of God's resources.*" As was noted in module 3.7, six different times in 1 Corinthians 12 the Apostle Paul makes a statement about how the differences found within the body of Christ are the result of God's sovereign choice.<sup>2</sup> The conclusion resounds clearly; if God has chosen to compose his body in this way, who are we to claim that some gifts (or people) are more valuable than others, or inversely, that some gifts (or people) are less valuable than others.

Moreover, the Charis Fellowship is committed to the leadership training of both men and women, because our churches need "*spiritually qualified and appropriately trained leaders*" that are both male and female. While it is true that we believe that the office of Elder is restricted to men only, we recognize that there exists a host of ministries within the local church that desperately need the leadership of godly women.

God the Holy Spirit has supernaturally gifted all believers, both male and female, with gifts to serve and build up the body of Christ. As such, all leadership training must seek the building up of the body as its specific focus in order to combat the temptation

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<sup>1</sup> Module 3.9

<sup>2</sup> Paul uses the words, empowers, empowered, were all baptized, arranged, composed, and appointed to make his point clear. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright ©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

towards pride, self-centeredness, and the demand to be served. Such attitudes will not glorify the Lord and only bring with them disastrous consequences.

Secondly, *“We affirm that God’s plan for this age is most fully expressed through establishing healthy churches. Although practices may vary between cultures, healthy local churches are comprised of believers in Christ who assume a mutual commitment to worship, learning, service, prayer, and witness.”* The Charis Fellowship believes that every local church exists for the glory of God and has been called to make, disciple-making, disciples<sup>3</sup>. Furthermore, we value and prioritize church planting as a primary means through which disciples are made.

Church planting takes on many forms, and can be accomplished through a variety of strategies that are based on the context, call, resources, and leadership of those planting. As an integral aspect of our commitment to Biblical Mission, our Fellowship is committed to celebrating all forms of church planting that align with our biblical understanding of what a church is.

The last part of our shared commitment to Biblical Mission is doing good. In this pursuit, *“We affirm that God’s plan for this age includes our responsibility to express the compassion of Christ through proclaiming the Gospel in words, while loving in deeds. We are committed to finding creative and practical ways to address the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of a fallen humanity.”*

Unfortunately, there exists today a wide range of disagreement regarding how churches should engage in what has been termed “social justice.” On one end of the spectrum there are churches that seek only to “proclaim the gospel” and do very little to address the practical needs of those in their communities. On the other end there are churches that are very active in addressing practical needs, yet, doing so without any mention of the greatest need that all of humanity has.

Foremost, we recognize that the greatest need that any human being has is to be reconciled to their Creator through the work of Jesus Christ, and we are deeply committed to proclaiming this gospel message in words that are understandable to the audience we are in front of. Secondly, we believe that the Church has a gospel responsibility to its community to love and serve all men and women in the name of Jesus. In our commitment to doing good, the Charis Fellowship seeks to proclaim the

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<sup>3</sup> Module 3.9

gospel with words and lovingly address the practical needs of people in our communities.

Our shared commitment to Biblical Mission seeks to provide clarity regarding our purpose as a Fellowship. In obedience to the command of Jesus, we understand that our mission is to continually make disciple-making disciples. To do this we are committed to continually developing qualified leaders, continually seeking to plant churches, and continually seek to do good and be a blessing to those whom God has placed around us.