

13/3/11 pm

Set Apart and Sent Out

Acts 13:1-4a

Theme: God calls some from His church to be set apart for particular acts of service.

All Christians are part of the body of Christ and have their role in it (1 Corinthians 12:27) but some Christians are called by God and set apart for particular purpose (Acts 13:1-3).

The Composition of the Church at Antioch (13:1)

Antioch was the capital of Syria,
the third greatest city in the world
(after Rome and Alexandria),
a first-century Las Vegas,
but the Lord had established a
church there!

Antioch was an ethnically diverse city.

The congregation was ethnically and culturally diverse (*cf.* the names in 13:1).

The Church is not made up of white Caucasian individuals!
(Revelation 7:9)

The Sensitivity of the Church at Antioch (13:2)

As the Church was worshipping and fasting, the Spirit told them to set apart Barnabas and Saul for work to which God called them.

1. The Lord is intimate with those who are walking closely with Him.

Here is a challenge for our fellowship.

Are we walking close to the Lord and worshipping together?

*2. The Lord calls some individuals to
be set apart for particular acts of
service.*

The Obedience of the Church at Antioch (13:3-4a)

How did the church at Antioch
respond to God's revealed will?

They listened, and it seems they
sought to *test* it ...

...they fasted and prayed before laying
hands on Barnabas and Saul and
sending them off.

*1. Never be afraid to challenge
someone who says, “The Lord told me
to do....”*

*It is right for the church to ratify the
sense of God’s leading concerning one
of its members.*

The local congregation must:

- *be made aware of God's leading,*
- *take measures to ratify it,*
- *send those called out from them on the back of prayerful and practical support, cf. 13:3-4a.*

2. The Lord will often call the most gifted leaders in a local congregation to another sphere of service.

Conclusion

We must walk closely with the Lord, be sensitive to His voice, recognise those He calls, check His will, willingly send them out and lovingly pray for them.