

Mission-Church Relations: Four Stages of Development

Stage One: Pioneer (First contact with people)
 Requires gift of leadership, along with other gifts.
 No Believers—missionary must lead and do much of the work himself.



mission

Stage Two: Parent (training/mentoring)
 Requires gift of teaching.
 The young church has a growing child's relationship to the mission. But the "parent" must avoid "paternalism."



church mission

Stage Three: Partner (relate as equals)
 Requires changes from parent-child relation to adult-adult relation.
 Difficult for both to change, but essential to the church's becoming a mature "adult."



church mission

Stage Four: Participant
 A fully mature church assumes leadership.
 As long as the mission remains, it should use its gifts to strengthen the church to meet the original objectives of Matt 28:19-20. Meanwhile the mission should be involved in Stage One elsewhere.



church mission

Three Eras of the Modern Missions Movement

First Era (1792–1910)

- Denominational agencies
- European dominance
- Geographic strategy

Second Era (1865–1980)

- "Faith" mission agencies
- American dominance
- Geographic strategy

Third (Final) Era (1934–?)

- "Specialized" mission agencies
- Non-Western dominance
- Non-geographic strategy based on people groups

