

4. Family

a. Marriage status

- 1) The husband of one wife (1 Timothy 3:2)
- 2) What about being a single missionary?
  - i. Paul was not married (1 Corinthians 7:7-8)
  - ii. Its advantages (1 Corinthians 7:25-35; 2 Corinthians 6:14-16)
    - a) The single missionary will not have to be worried about the safety and welfare of his wife.
    - b) The single missionary will be able to place all of his strength and focus on the work that is before him.
  - iii. Its disadvantages (1 Corinthians 7:28; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Amos 3:3)
    - a) The single missionary is without a co-laborer in the work.
    - b) There is no one there to share the load.
- 3) What about a married missionary?

- i. The married missionary has a help-meet to be there with him (Genesis 2:18)
  - a) The woman was made to be a help-meet
  - b) She can have just as much of a ministry to the people as her husband.
  - c) A wife can be a great help with ladies and children's ministries
  - d) A wife will be able to go where you cannot
- ii. The married missionary's wife is that second person that comes alongside and labours alongside and encourages (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Psalm 34:3; Psalm 128:3)

b. Family strength (Psalm 128:3; Psalm 52:8)

- 1) The wife is pictured as a fruitful vine in scripture
- 2) Children are like olive plants and arrows
- 3) Scripture typifies these arrows as useful to a strong man (Psalm 127:3-5)

- c. Family support (Amos 3:3; Ephesians 5:21-25; 1 Timothy 3:4-5)
  - 1) While you may not have relatives (in-laws, parents, distant family) support.
  - 2) Immediate family support is a must in your labour for the Lord
  - 3) Your wife and children need to be in support of your desire to go to the mission field  
Note: This doesn't mean that they will not experience their own struggles with the changes that come with this calling, but there needs to be unity in the home.

5. Love (2 Corinthians 5:14; 1 John 3:16)

- a. People will expect the missionary to be the embodiment of God's love to man.
  - 1) The love of God that sent the Son into the world to die for sinful man is the same love that sends the missionary to preach salvation to the lost.
  - 2) It is the love of Christ that constrains the missionary to go.
- b. It is the love of Christ which the missionary aims to reveal.
  - 1) The missionary will learn to think of them as "my people."
  - 2) Unless he loves Him, he can hardly keep going.
  - 3) Unless he loves them, he can hardly keep going.

6. Moral Courage (Galatians 2:11)

- a. You cannot be flexible with your standards – (right and wrong).
  - 1) These people either only believe something because it is popular.
  - 2) Or they don't have the courage to stand up for what they believe.
  - 3) Both types are "easy to get along with". They never stir up trouble. However, these folks don't make good missionaries.
- b. Firm standards of right and wrong are essential
  - 1) Truth must be spoken, and sin must be faced down.
  - 2) "Speaking the truth in love" will be important.

7. Purpose (Philippians 3:14)
  - a. A lack of purpose
    - 1) The ailment afflicting people today.
    - 2) Many people don't know to aim for.
    - 3) A temporary uncertainty in making a life altering decision is understandable. But, if you consistently find it hard to make up your mind; if you habitually show lack of eager purposefulness; if you don't have great aim, or goal setting, then you won't make much of a missionary.
  - b. You must have vision
    - 1) The missionary's vision must be a high and worthy objective.
    - 2) He needs a God-given "vision."
8. Discernment (1 Kings 3:9, 11; Hebrews 5:14)
  - a. The true missionary is a man of vision, but not a visionary.
  - b. His vision may lead him to see beyond present circumstances but is not blind to things as they are.
  - c. He must be able to see the real issues at stake and the problems he faces. Simply put, he needs lots of common sense.
9. Zeal and Constancy (Titus 2:14)
  - a. A true missionary must have zeal
    - 1) His zeal doesn't have to be that effervescent type that shows itself in a vigorous set of emotion.
    - 2) It may be an intense, slow-burning but all-consuming type that drives him steadily on despite opposition.
    - 3) A lazy, indifferent missionary just has no place on the field
  - b. A true missionary must have constancy – *constancy*: “the quality of being unchanging or unwavering, as in purpose, love, or loyalty; firmness of mind.”
    - 1) You must stay constant, even in the face of disappointments and discouragements
    - 2) It's easy to say that if you are sure the Lord sent you there, you won't give up. However, there's more to it than that. It will be just as easy to convince yourself that you've made a mistake.
    - 3) It's the one that has learned the lesson of constancy who usually holds fast. He's learned to keep on despite discouragements.

10. Leadership

- a. Simply put, missionary work calls for leaders
- b. He will have to lead on multiple levels
  - 1) Whether they want to or not, those who go out as missionaries will have to take the place of leaders.
  - 2) The missionary will need to lead people in their spiritual development after salvation.
  - 3) He will need to lead them in the formation of the church
  - 4) He will be the leader in the training of national workers who will carry on the work.
- c. The missionary must have the qualities of leadership – especially initiative and responsibility.

11. Physical

- a. Age
  - 1) Naturally, no one is too old or too young to witness for Christ. However, there are deciding factors when one is going to certain fields of service.
  - 2) The field in which one is going will sometimes determine the overall requirements of this. Of course, one's health will also be a deciding factor as well.
  - 3) Items to consider: The candidate needs to be young enough:
    - i. To learn the language well of the people to whom he is going.
    - ii. He will need to adapt himself physically and mentally to the new conditions of living
    - iii. He will need to look forward to enough years of ministry; enough time of special training, deputation, passage to the field, and establishment upon arrival.
  - 4) On the other hand, he needs to be old enough, and mature enough in his thinking and acting, so he can take on the serious responsibilities of a missionary's life and work.
- b. General health
  - 1) The average missionary works in fields and under conditions that make serious demands on his health and strength. While the mortality rate has greatly decreased over the decades, and conditions have improved in many fields, the job still calls for sound and vigorous overall health.
  - 2) Keep in mind that the field in which one is called will be a determining factor. For example, the strains of a missionary

going to the wilds of New Guinea will be much different from the missionary going to Europe.

- 3) It would be best for the prospective missionary to research the medical conditions of their desired field of service and visit with their doctor to see what kind of struggles they will face.

c. Disabilities

- 1) Of course, there are some physical handicaps that you can't completely overcome. The loss of a leg, an arm, or the crippling effects of an ailment.
- 2) These sometimes close the doors to missionary work. But not always.
- 3) Some fields, you may still be able to labour. There are some places and kinds of work where the possession of two arms or two legs is not essential to the work. Also, if you have a prosthetic limb and are well trained in its use, this would not be a limiting factor.