

# Biblical Foundations for Everyday Mission

*A theological reflection on the identity and calling of every believer*

## Understanding Being Marked by Christ

To be marked by Christ in the Bible signifies a deep spiritual identity and purpose for believers. This concept encompasses several key aspects:

### Key Aspects of Being Marked by Christ

| Aspect              | Description                                                                       | Biblical Reference                           |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Identity            | Being marked means belonging to God, similar to how a shepherd marks his sheep.   | <i>Ephesians 1:13-14</i>                     |
| Protection          | God marks His people for protection against harm and spiritual attacks.           | <i>Ezekiel 9:4;</i><br><i>Revelation 7:3</i> |
| Purpose and Calling | Those marked are chosen for specific missions or assignments in God's plan.       | <i>Jeremiah 1:5</i>                          |
| Transformation      | A marked individual exhibits a transformed life that reflects Christ's character. | <i>Galatians 6:17</i>                        |
| Renewed Mind        | Being marked involves having a renewed mind and heart, aligning with God's truth. | <i>Romans 12:2</i>                           |

## The Seal of the Holy Spirit

The marking by Christ is often associated with the Holy Spirit, which acts as a seal of salvation. This seal confirms that believers are set apart for God's purposes and guarantees their inheritance in Him.

## Living as Someone Marked by Christ

To live as someone marked by Christ involves:

- Walking in holiness and obedience (1 Peter 1:15-16)
- Being bold in faith and calling (2 Timothy 1:7)
- Trusting in God's protection and provision (Psalm 91:1-2)
- Allowing the Holy Spirit to lead and transform (Galatians 5:16-25)

Being marked by Christ is not just about identity. It reflects a relationship with God, a calling to serve, and a commitment to live according to His will.

## Understanding Being Sent by Christ

In John 20:21, the risen Christ speaks directly to His disciples: “As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” This is not a suggestion or an invitation. It is a commissioning. Just as the Father sent the Son into the world with purpose and authority, the Son sends His followers into the world with the same intentionality. To be sent by Christ is to carry His mission as your own.

## Key Aspects of Being Sent by Christ

| Aspect               | Description                                                                                                                    | Biblical Reference                       |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Commissioning</b> | Being sent is an active call from Christ to go into the world as His representative.                                           | <i>John 20:21</i>                        |
| <b>Authority</b>     | Those sent by Christ act on His behalf, carrying His message and mission with the authority He confers.                        | <i>Matthew 28:18-20</i>                  |
| <b>Purpose</b>       | The sending is rooted in the mission of making Christ known, serving others, and bearing witness to His truth.                 | <i>Acts 1:8</i>                          |
| <b>Continuity</b>    | Christ’s sending of His followers mirrors the Father’s sending of Christ, establishing an unbroken chain of missional purpose. | <i>John 17:18</i>                        |
| <b>Dependence</b>    | Those sent are not sent alone. Christ promises His presence and the power of the Holy Spirit to those He sends.                | <i>Matthew 28:20;</i><br><i>Acts 1:8</i> |

## The Role of the Holy Spirit

In sending His disciples, Christ did not leave them without power. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide, equip, and empower those He commissioned. As He said in John 14:26 (WEB): “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and will remind you of all that I said to you.” The sent believer does not go in their own strength. They go filled and led by the Spirit of God.

## Living as Someone Sent by Christ

To live as someone sent by Christ involves:

- Going into everyday life as a representative of Christ and His truth (John 20:21)
- Speaking and living in a way that points others toward the gospel (Colossians 4:5-6)
- Trusting the Holy Spirit to open doors and provide the words (Luke 12:11-12)
- Serving others as an expression of Christ’s own servant mission (Mark 10:45)
- Being prepared to give an account of the hope that is in you (1 Peter 3:15)

Being sent by Christ is not reserved for missionaries or pastors. Every believer who has been marked by Christ has also been sent by Him, into their neighborhood, their workplace, their family, and their everyday life. The sending is not occasional. It is continuous. It is the permanent posture of the believer who understands what the mark of Christ means.

## Marked and Sent: One Identity, One Calling

***These two realities belong together and cannot be separated. The believer who has been marked by Christ carries a seal that cannot be removed. The believer who has been sent by Christ carries a mission that cannot be revoked. One speaks to who you are. The other speaks to why you are here.***

Ephesians 1:13 establishes the mark: sealed by the Holy Spirit, identified as God's own, set apart for His purposes.

John 20:21 establishes the sending: commissioned by Christ, directed into the world, entrusted with His mission.

Together they form the complete picture of what it means to follow Christ in everyday life. Not a passive faith held privately, but an active witness carried publicly into every ordinary moment of an ordinary day.

The church has long understood that missionaries are sent. What is sometimes lost is the understanding that every believer is a missionary. Not every believer is called to cross an ocean. But every believer is called to cross the street, to enter the workplace, to sit at the table, and to live in such a way that the truth of Jesus Christ is encountered by the people around them.

This is not an extraordinary calling reserved for the exceptional. It is the ordinary calling of every person who has heard the word of truth, believed, and been sealed by the promised Holy Spirit. They have been marked. They have been sent. The two are inseparable.