

Personal / Small Group Sermon Study

The Great Commission

Week of May 21, 2017 A.D.

Jesus commanded his disciples to make disciples of all nations. We are modern day disciples. So, this same responsibility now belongs to us.

Read Matthew 28:16-20

These verses are called “the great commission”. A commission is defined as: “the authority to act on behalf of another person”. In this instance, that “other person” is Jesus. The commission is called “great” because it is “extraordinary in magnitude”. It encompasses the entire world.

1. When Jesus gives a command, does Jesus have the right to expect that his disciples will obey that command? Please explain.
2. What are the scope and the specific directive of this command by Jesus? What are the detailed instructions by which this directive is to be accomplished? Please explain why Jesus would give such a command.
3. Is the command by Jesus an “ongoing command” which extends to each successive generation of disciples? If so, why must it be this way? Please explain.
4. Is the command to make (a) disciples? or (b) converts to Christianity? Is there a difference between the two? If so, what is the difference? Please explain.
5. Local bodies of disciples are often called “the church”. In your opinion, are all churches (a) expected to obey Jesus’ command to make disciples? (b) given the authority and the power to accomplish Jesus’ command? and (c) responsible to reach “all nations” on behalf of Jesus? Please explain your answers.

Read Acts 1:4-8

In a courtroom, an attorney is an “advocate” who presents a case or argument on behalf of his client; and, a “witness” is a person who testifies to what he has seen, heard, or experienced.

6. Does Jesus need our help as advocates to convince people that He is God? (Before you answer, read John 6:44 and Acts 13:48.) Please explain your answer.

7. Does Jesus expect every Christian to be one of his witnesses? Please explain.
8. Do all Christians have an experience and/or a testimony which they are to tell to non-believers? If so, should each Christian be prepared to give his or her testimony on a moment's notice? (See 1 Peter 3:15) Please explain your answers.
9. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "It is the job of the Holy Spirit to draw a person to belief in Christ. It is the job of the Christian to tell all people how their relationship with Christ has changed their life."

Read Romans 10:11-15

10. Do all church families have an obligation to (a) financially support missionaries? and (b) encourage their own members to embrace mission trip opportunities? Please explain.

Read Matthew 24:14

11. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "With the internet, satellite television, radio, and motorized transportation, it is now possible and reasonable for the gospel of Jesus Christ to be preached throughout the whole world. This is a sign that the end of the world (as we currently know it) is near."

Read Luke 12:47-48

12. Jesus is not a child abuser. So, He will never beat his children. But, does Jesus expect each of his children (i.e. all Christians) to act upon and to do "what he knows to be his master's will"? If so, how do these verses apply to the Christian's obligation to spread the gospel to all nations? Please explain.
13. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "The church families in America have the financial resources and the available people to teach the gospel in every nation of the world. Therefore, it is apparent that God expects the American church to do so."

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

14. Please explain how these verses should inspire every Christian to do his part to fulfill the great commission.

Consider: The great commission is all too often the great omission. Ask God what He wants you to do in response to the great commission. Then do what He says. You'll be glad that you did.