

The Basics of Disciple Making

❖ **Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV)**

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

❖ **Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)**

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.”

❖ **Matthew 28:18-20 (AMP)**

“Jesus approached and, breaking the silence, said to them, All authority (all power of rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go then and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all the days (perpetually, uniformly, and on every occasion), to the [very] close *and* consummation of the age. *Amen (so let it be).*”

v. 18 All authority – in heaven and earth

With these words Jesus transforms His followers into His representatives

and promises they would have His authority and power to spread His message throughout the world.

This must be coupled with Luke 24:49 where Jesus commanded them to wait for the Father to fulfill His promise of sending the Holy Spirit to empower them, which was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost.

❖ **Luke 24:47-49 (NKJV)**

“and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; **but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.**”

We simply cannot expect the fulfillment of the Great Commission in and through our own abilities, power or authority.

Without His power, authority, leading and guidance we will not accomplish anything (John 15:5).

vv. 19-20 Christ’s Great Commission to His Church.

“Go make disciples of all nations....”

This command applies to all of His followers in every part of the world, in all generations.

With these final instructions, Jesus states both the goal, and responsibility of the Church.

- 1. The church is to go into all the world and proclaim the message of Christ as He revealed it in His own teachings.**

“to observe (obey) all things I have commanded you.”

The Apostles were eye witnesses of all He did and taught (Acts 1:1) and now are given the responsibility of reproducing what Jesus did in them, in others around the globe.

- 2. The primary purpose of the Great commission is seen in the only direct command in this passage.**

“make disciples” (mathēteusate – Greek)- disciplined “learners” and followers of Jesus, who live by His commands and are constantly growing in their relationship with Him.

“Going”, **“baptizing”** and **“teaching”** are all helping verbs supporting the main command in this passage: “make disciples”.

Many would say the “Great Commission” is a call to evangelism, but really Jesus clarifies a deeper aspect of discipleship as the real goal.

Discipleship goes beyond evangelism.

- **Evangelism is the proclamation of the gospel with the goal of people believing in Jesus and what He did for us on the cross.**
- **Discipleship is centered on Biblical teaching and continual spiritual nurturing which produces growth in obedience and character development in the disciple.**

Effective evangelism cannot be separated from true discipleship.

It’s ultimate goal is to produce disciple-makers.

Jesus does not want His followers to simply make converts to Christianity; His commission is to train and mentor others, who will faithfully follow Christ, and lead others to Him as well.

When people who “accept Christ” do not grow beyond that starting point they will almost 100% of the time abandon their profession of faith, and become “hardened” to Jesus by the experience.

3. Our Command is to:
 - A. Go into all the world
 - B. Preach the gospel

The message centered on the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

Personal responsibility for a person's own sin must be emphasized so repentance and forgiveness can take place (Luke 24:47; Matthew 26:28).

C. Make disciples of those who believe the gospel.

How?

1. Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

***** When you hold an evangelistic event it's not how many come to the altar; to see the real impact of the event – count how many were baptized. *****

2. Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.

***** The primary means of disciple making is Bible teaching. *****

❖ **John 8:31-32**

“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Notice in Ephesians 4:11, the ministry gifts are listed and some are “Pastors and teachers”.

This is a combined or compound gift: to Pastor people, teaching is the primary means to do so.

An evangelist may be a good preacher, but a Pastor must be a good teacher.

Preaching and teaching are two completely different Greek words with completely different subject matters and purposes, as we will see in a later study.

Evangelism, winning the lost and disciple making is the call of all Christians and five-fold ministers.

*** Hebrews 6:1-3 tells us what the early church emphasized in their discipleship curriculum:

1. Repentance from dead works
2. Faith in God
3. The doctrine of baptisms
4. Laying on of hands
5. Resurrection of the dead
6. Eternal life
7. Going on to perfection