

The Great Commission

Last Sunday Carpenters said missions is:

- A calling
- A commitment
- Relational
- A Spiritual Battle

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ 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.

- Called this because it was Jesus' last command before ascending

Is the Great commission for every individual believer, for the church at large, or just for apostles?

- It is not just for the apostles. We have other places in Scripture this is reiterated to everyone. Also, there were likely many others there where Jesus ascended.
- It is not for every individual believer, as this would be an impossible task for each of us to do.
- This is for the church at large.
 - But the church is made up of individuals. So we all actually have a role in the Great Commission, but our roles may not all be the same.

Speaking of being reiterated elsewhere:

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not

imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- We have been entrusted with the word of reconciliation.
- We are ambassadors – God's representatives. Again, for the purpose of reconciling the world to God.
- What this is saying is that God has partnered with us. He is not solely responsible for bringing the message of the Gospel to the world. He started it. We join in with Him.
- If you want to partner with God in something – this is one that is for everyone. He's currently doing it, and you can too.
- We are not responsible for the results. But we are given responsibility for bringing the Gospel to others.

I know this can be difficult. I know this can be scary. But it can also be very rewarding.

2 examples of sharing my faith:

- Daytona Beach with Brian – to unknown people with risk
- Bruce – to a friend through relationship

Within the Great Commission, I see two main categories given:

1. Going and evangelizing
2. Making disciples and teaching.

Paul knew his role:

- **1 Timothy 2:3-7** For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, ⁷ for which I was appointed a

preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ *and* not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Speaking of roles:

- **Ephesians 4:11-12** And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,
- When all these parts are working together, the Great Commission, and even more, is being fulfilled.
- Apostles are sent ones. Missionaries. Starting movements. Going to foreign places and establishing churches.
- Evangelists are spreading the Gospel. Generally, locally. They witness where they are.
- Pastors and Teachers are making disciples. Bringing people to maturity and helping them find their roles in the body of Christ.
- Prophets are helping to point people in the right direction, bringing God's vision to the ministry.
- And this is all done to equip the body for the ministry – a self-perpetuating cycle.

Let's go back to the 2 main categories of the Great Commission.

1. Going and Evangelizing

Romans 10:13-15 For "*whoever calls on the name of the LORD* shall be saved." ¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!*" ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "*LORD, who has believed our report?*" ¹⁷ So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- Everyone needs to be saved.

- The problem – People can't call on someone that they don't believe in.
- They can't believe if they have not heard.
- They cannot hear unless someone goes and preaches.
- People can't go and preach unless they are sent.
- There are 2 roles given here – Go and Send.

Ex – I went to Russia on a short term trip. I thought I was supposed to be a missionary. But then it was made clear to me that I was not called to foreign missions.

After getting married, Tina and I felt called to support missions. We started at \$5/month to the Fraziers. Now we support 3 missionary families, 1 missionary organization, and 1 missions project. We are now giving about 100x what we started at.

Why? Because it became clear that we do not simply give to missions. We are senders. It was made clear to us that this is one of our roles. I also serve as the chairman of the board for GTN.

When we see a missionary, we expect that they have left what could be a comfortable life here to go somewhere not familiar, leaving family and friends to do evangelical work somewhere else.

I think whatever role we have should be done at the same commitment level as those that go.

Going and Evangelizing can be foreign missions or local missions.

- There are great moves across college campuses bringing the Gospel in very dark places.
- We can bring the Gospel to anyone that is in our lives, even to people we may only meet for a few minutes.
- **1 Peter 2:9** But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- **John 17:18-19** As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

2. Making disciples and teaching

- This is also part of the Great Commission. This is why we all work together to complete it.
- Many missions centered organizations do not want to think of a local church as part of the Great Commission, but at the same time the establish local churches while doing missions.

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

- By teaching the Word of God to people, it opens up passions, callings, and more.
- The more we learn about God, the more healed we are, the more confident we become. The greater our ability to then do ministry.
- **Colossians 1:28** Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

Not just for pastors:

1 Corinthians 4:15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do* not *have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Many people struggle with their calling. Sometimes we will say things like, just see what God is doing and join in with that. Honestly, it is more complex than that. However...

Sharing your faith is immediately joining in with what God is doing. Listen to some excerpts from Scriptures we read today:

- Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations
- God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation

- we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.
- God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent?
- that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

In fact, Peter declares that God is delaying His return so that as many as possible may be saved:

- **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

What about our church?

Reborn has 4 main roles in the Great Commission.

1. Train people to become disciples that understand what the Great Commission is.

- That's why we have had a Global Pathway.
- We will be having a MAT training and establishing a MAT
- Why sermons like this are preached
- Hopefully soon we will have some opportunities to go out as a church for some local evangelism.

2. Help people identify their calling in missions

- We have had a short-term missions trip.
- We have another planned
- We are more than happy to do one-on-one counseling with you
- We provide opportunities to support missions.

3. Financially help send missionaries.

- We have currently committed to giving 10% of our church's income to missions (to the field, not to include other types of things like a missions banquet).
- Currently, we exceed 10%, but we will give a report at the banquet.

4. To raise up missionaries.

- While we support the Leary's, they are not actually a part of our congregation.
- The Carpenters are, but in fairness they were already heading in that direction when they joined our church.
- The Sudbrinks are out of our congregation. While they definitely knew their missions calling before our church existed, we counseled, prayed and helped encourage and send them. I'm counting them as being sent out from here.

If you have never thought about your role in the Great Commission, I would highly encourage you to spend time in prayer.

If you need any further direction, Tina and I would be happy to talk with you.