

Questions

1. How can the church do good things and yet miss the Great Commission?
2. Why is it crucial to recognize and believe in the authority of Jesus as we seek to obey the Great Commission?
3. How is it an encouragement to know that the One who commanded you has promised to always be with you?
4. What is the result of aiming for converts but not following up with teaching Christ's commands? Describe the church's role in this process.
5. What are the inherent advantages in making disciples in the context of the local church?
6. How do local communities of disciples (local churches) play a critical part in the disciple making commission? (Read Acts 2:41-47.)
7. Baptism has both a corporate church meaning and an individual meaning. What are they and why are they both important?
8. Discuss/think about this from what Pastor Stuart said, "One doesn't really understand the meaning of a text until they know how to apply it."
9. What does obedience to the Great Commission look like in your life?

Book Recommendation

~ *Discipling: How to Help Others Follow Jesus*, by Mark Dever
~ *One-To-One Bible Reading*, by David Helm



Exiles with a Mission

Matthew 28:18-20

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King Jesus provides us 3 truths about the disciple-making commission that he gives to all exiles.

There's a claim (v.18), a command (v.19-20a), and a commitment (v.20b), but without the claim and commitment, the command carries no weight and no power to obey it. So, we'll cover the claim and commitment first, then address the command.

A Claim – Verse 18

Jesus' claim of universal authority is the *basis* of the command in verse 19. That's what "therefore" means in "Go therefore and make disciples". It speaks to *result*, cause and effect.

Jesus says, "I have universal authority, so as a result, make disciples—followers of me."

A Commitment – Verse 20b

The sending of the Holy Spirit to empower his disciples, is the fulfillment of the commitment, "I am with you always".

The very One who has all authority in heaven and on earth, doesn't just rightly command you to "make disciples", he also commits to being with you always, to empower you to obedience.

Nothing we face will be bigger than the empowering promise of Jesus' abiding presence.

Evangelism and conversion are implicit in making disciples, but to make a disciple (and not just a "decision") is to baptize them and teach them, in an going way to obey all of Jesus' commands.

"Baptizing" and "teaching" make it clear that making disciples moves people into the kind of discipleship that occurs in the community of local churches.

A Command – Verses 19-20a

"Make disciples" is the command; this is the great commission. And it's given to every disciple of Jesus.