

# Proclaim the Gospel and Make Disciples | 10/22/17

- The Great Commission | Matthew 28:19-20 & Mark 16:15
  - **If we ask ourselves what is the most important task that Christians are to do with their time on earth, we can find the answer in the great commission.**
  - The Scriptures are filled with how we are to live our lives, the sins we are to avoid the good that we are called to do.
  - **These things ultimately point to same overall goal which is to proclaim the Gospel and to make disciples.**
    - Mark 16:15
      - “And he said to them, Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”
    - Matthew 28:19-20
      - **“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you**. And behold I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
  - There are two key directives, one is to proclaim the Gospel and the other is to teach them to observe all that Jesus has command us.
    - To proclaim the Gospel is to be a witness and lead others to Christ.
      - This is the first step, before one can become a disciple they first must be a believer.
      - This is done through proclaiming the Gospel and being a witness for Christ.
    - To make disciples is to teach them to observe what Christ has told us about what it is to be a Christian.
      - This is the second step, after conversion one should grow and learn as much about Christ and what the Scriptures teach.
      - Jesus said to teach them to observe ALL that He commanded, so everything that He has commanded in Scripture is very important.
      - This leads to those who then desire to also share their faith and repeat the process of witnessing and sharing the Gospel.
- We represent God by being ambassadors (a representative) for Christ.
  - **In our role either in sharing the Gospel or making disciples we are a representative for Christ.**
  - 2 Corinthians 5:20a
    - “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”
  - What does it mean to be an ambassador?
    - In the political world an ambassador is the representative of an entire country.
      - When a politician is chosen and sent to a foreign country that person is the representative of the United States.
    - It is important that the ambassador properly represents the United States and is a voice for all of us in a way that properly reflects who we are as a country.
    - If the voice of the ambassador is good or bad it can directly affect how the world perceives us.
    - We would expect appropriate behavior out of our ambassador both in speech and actions.
  - An ambassador for Christ must represent Him to the world.

- As Christians we are all part of the body of Christ, we all are a representative of Him.
    - Just as we expect our political ambassadors to properly represent us to the world, so does God expect us to represent him.
    - God expects us to be His ambassador both in our speech and actions because everything we do as a Christian can have a direct influence on how the world sees Him.
  - When we share the Gospel, we are sharing the truth and the love of Christ, we are His chosen vessels to deliver the lifesaving message of the Gospel.
  - When we disciple other we must strive to be a true representative of a Christian that is portrayed in Scriptures, to help bring others closer to Christ and living lives as He has called us to.
  - **If we think of ourselves as a true representative of Christ what kind of impact should that have on our lives?**
- Why do we need to share the gospel?
  - If we do not share the Gospel, then the lost will not be able to hear it.
    - We know that we are saved by grace through faith. They must have genuine belief.
      - Ephesians 2:8
        - “For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift”
    - Then how does the lost person obtain this saving faith? By hearing the Gospel
      - Romans 10:17
        - “So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.”
      - God speaks to others through us, He appeals through us.
        - 2 Corinthians 5:20a
          - “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, **God making his appeal through us.** We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”
    - If we as Christians choose never to share the Gospel, if we disobey God and keep this truth to ourselves, then how will the lost have faith to believe?
      - Romans 10:13-14
        - “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how can they call on Him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about Him? And how can they hear without a preacher?”
      - **This Scripture reinforces the Great Commission. That it wasn’t just a suggestion, but that Christians plays an important role in spreading the Gospel.**
      - Don’t think that “preacher” means a select few, we all play a part in God’s plan for others to come to know Him.
        - Who is responsible for witnessing?
          - **What do you commonly hear as who bears the responsibility to witness?**
          - Common Christian views on the responsibility of witnessing
            - It’s the pastors, deacons or teacher’s responsibility.
            - It’s for someone who is really knowledgeable about the Bible and is portrayed as a good Christian.
            - It’s someone else’s job
      - It is our Godly appointed duty to be a witness to others to share the gospel of Christ so that the lost can believe and be saved

- Matthew 28:19
    - “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
  - How can the whole world be reached if only certain Christians are to be a witness?
  - It requires all Christians to spread the Gospel.
- God has chosen to use us to reach others, when we choose not to we are being disobedient.
- **To share the gospel of Christ is to share the cure for the eternal punishment of sin.**
  - If you had the cure for cancer would you share it?
  - Isn't sharing the gospel that brings eternal life greater than the cure for a disease that only affects the body which is temporary?
- **Do you think we forget or overlook how important our role is in bringing the Gospel message to others?**
- **Do we get caught up in our “Christian bubble” and forget that there is a world full of people needing to hear a message of hope and truth?**
- To share the Gospel may not always be easy but we must fulfill our ministry
  - While in a since it seems quite simple to share the Gospel, but in reality, we know that it can be difficult.
  - In fact, Paul knew this, and God inspired him to encourage Christians to do it anyways.
    - 2 Timothy 4:2
      - “preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”
      - “In season” means a good opportunity or convenient.
        - HCSB translation - “Proclaim the message; persist in it whether convenient or not...”
  - We must be ready
    - We must always be ready to share the Gospel, we must always be ready to tell others about the hope that we have in Christ.
      - 1 Peter 3:15
        - “But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;...**”
    - The best defense and the best reason that we have to portray to others about our faith in Christ is tell them WHY we have hope.
    - We should all be able to tell anyone about the hope that we have within us, the hope that makes it real to us.
    - **What is the hope that you have within you? What would you tell someone?**
  - We must proclaim the Gospel and disciple others even if it isn't convenient
    - We can come up with a lot of excuses for why we do not share the Gospel and it being inconvenient is certainly a common one.
    - In fact, it's likely “always” going to be inconvenient if we are not intentional about it.
    - Sometimes we have to go out of our way to make a difference in the life of someone else.
    - If we are discipling someone we will have to put time and effort into it, it does require personal sacrifice.



- This happens for various reasons, but one is when we put so much focus on leading someone to Christ that once they believe we consider that a “win” and we move on to the next.
- **We can become so focused on the number of people being saved in a ministry and not put any emphasis on the follow up, to make those new Christians disciples and to help them on the path to spiritual maturity.**
  - Now this is not to say that counting conversions is wrong, it is perfectly OK to praise God for the number of people who have come to Christ during a campaign like a revival or VBS.
  - But there is no question that there is less emphasis on the follow up and helping them to become a disciple.
- We must not forget the importance of helping those who are new Christians as well as those that are still spiritually immature.
  - **Just because someone has been a Christian their whole life does not mean they are not still in spiritual infancy.**
- What do you think? Do Christians and the church perhaps at times not put enough emphasis on making disciples? If so why do you think this happens?
- What can we do to be more intentional about making disciples and to help others grow?