

SERMON SINGLES

What Should The Last Generation Do?

Matthew 28:18-20

INTRODUCTION **NOTES** In today's message, we are going to be focusing on the words of the Great Commission. These verses are the walking orders of the church. In the last several decades, the church has embraced the community of business leaders who have bought into the need for a vision statement. We need to have a mission statement. We need to have a purpose and a direction. And while I understand the value of that, we already have a mission and a purpose, and that is the Great Commission. It was the very thing that set the first generation of believers on course, therefore it should also place the last generation on course. **KEY POINTS** 1. Make sure you know who is in charge. "All authority in heaven and earth." As followers of Jesus, we need to come to terms with the fact that He is God and we are not. We need to learn how to wrestle with that, especially when we don't understand His timing nor his purpose. We need to remember that He is in charge. After all, that is the first thing that Jesus told His disciples. He knew what they would go through. Some of them would lose their lives if they stood for Christ. Some would be stoned, and some of them would be fileted alive. Some of them would be persecuted. One of them was crucified upside down. One of them was boiled in oil. Jesus was in charge, and He used even their sufferings to accomplish His purposes in and through their lives for His Kingdom. We have the privilege and honor of resting in His total authority. 2. Make sure of your salvation. The most important decision that you will ever make is to get saved, turn from sin, and place your faith in Christ. It's sad that many people don't understand this crucial reality. They equate church membership with being saved. They join a church because they want to do life with other saved people. However, having your name on the church role does not guarantee that you will go to heaven. Only surrendering your life to Jesus and putting your full trust in Him as your Savior will get you into heaven.

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Matthew 28:18-20

3. Make sure of the salvation of your family. Can you imagine going to heaven without your family? You have been saved, but what if your children, your grandchildren, your great-grandchildren, your brother, your sister, your mother or your father, anyone in your genetic pool or your family unit, does not join you in heaven?	NOTES
If you are a believer and you have a family member, you need to share Jesus with them. I don't care where they live or what church they go to, if they have never given their life to Christ, you need to share Christ with them. They may not listen to any other person.	
4. Make sure of the salvation of your friends. Some of us have friends who are closer than family. Although they are not in our gene pool, we are like family to them. We spend more time with our friends than with many of our family members. They are a huge part of our lives.	
With this in mind, can you imagine being friends with someone for 5 years, 10 years, 15 years, 20 years, 30 years, or lifelong friends, and never sharing the Gospel with them? What if they never hear the story of Christ from your lips? Is that being the best friend you can be if you never tell them how to be saved?	
 5. Make sure your life is aligned with the Great Commission. - Be clear about your mission field. - Be confident of His presence. - Be aware of God's plan. 	
6. Make sure of your discipline. The church described in Acts 2 grew because they were making sure of their discipline. They devoted themselves to the Word of God, and they stayed in prayer. One of the greatest things you could do is to be a man or a woman of prayer. You need to speak to God, listen to Him, and stay in fellowship with God and others. When you hold fast to these spiritual disciplines, you will grow and mature in your faith.	

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7. Make sure of your sensitivity to the needs of others. In other words, be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. If God places someone on your heart to bless financially, or to bless with a word of encouragement, I pray that you won't hold back. If God tickles your heart and draws you to reach into your pocketbook or reach into your heart to bless someone, just do it! That is what the first generation did, and that's what I hope the last generation will do as well.	NOTES
8. Make sure you worship, really worship! The Bible says the first generation was praising God and they were enjoying the favor of all the people. In the same way, we should be a generation of real worshipers because we are praising God. We are praising Him because of all that He has done and all that He will do.	
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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. Do you have any family members or friends who aren't saved yet? How can you be faithful in talking to them about Jesus in the coming days and weeks?
- 2. What are some practical ways we can live out the Great Commission?

3.	Have you ever had the Holy Spirit lead you to bless another person? What did you learn from that experience?