

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"CM MOTTO: OUR BIBLICAL MANDATE" | MARK 12: 28-31 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

- What is a memorable motto you've heard or seen?

"Love God Completely" Mark 12: 28-30

Because of how great God is, believers are to love God with all of their heart, soul, mind, and strength. That takes grace to do.

- Why is the command to love God with everything difficult and actually show us our need for Jesus' help?
- How can believers gathering together help each other to love God completely?

"Love People Authentically" Mark 12: 31

Jesus shows that loving God and loving others cannot be separated. A love for God will lead to loving people within reach.

- Why is loving others equally important to loving God?
- How can believers gathering together authentically love others in our culture today?

"Make Disciples Intentionally" Matthew 28: 18-20

Jesus commands His followers to go to all nations and make disciples who are obeying Him. He promises to be with us in this effort.

- How is sharing about Jesus different than making a disciple who obeys Jesus?
- How can believers gathering together better reach all the nations with the gospel?

"Keep the Commandment and Commission Together

True love for others will cause believers to share about Jesus. Sharing about Jesus without love is ineffective. Love fuels the mission.

- Why is loving someone incomplete if we don't share about Jesus?

REFLECTION AND APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Jesus clearly gives His followers their main goal and mission: to love God with all they have and to love others authentically. This leads to His followers going to all nations to make disciples who do the same. Jesus promises to be with His people in all of this.

- What is one part of your life that is not fully surrendered to God?
- Who is someone God has placed within the reach of your love?
- Who can you help take one step toward Jesus?
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you the love for God and others to live out your purpose.

1 CM Motto: Our Biblical Mandate

9-6-26

Two Commands, One Calling.

I. Announce:

A. Welcome to those watching online.

B. Slide1-7 AP: FPU. Foundations. Men's Study. Community Groups. Foundations. 5 Love Languages. Reminders: Prayer. Highlight: Prayer over Youth & Young Adult Rooms after Service.

C. Slide8 Prayer: (TY, Nepal support! \$6000+ came in)

II. Intro:

A. Slide9 Did everyone get a card on the way in? (hold up) [*please keep it]

1. This is a great Sunday to be here, if you are new and if you've been here from the beginning. Who is CM?

B. In 2008 we sought to figure out - **Who we were** as a church? What was our **aim**? Who did we want to become? (aspirations/goals). How we desired to live? (our DNA)

1. 1 of us said, This is what we believe, that if you left and came back 20 years later, these wouldn't have changed! And they haven't! 18 yrs later.

2. An organization's **mission, vision, and values** provide a shared sense of purpose, direction, and identity. The **mission** clarifies why the organization exists and whom it serves. The **vision** describes the future it is working toward. The **values** guide how people behave and make decisions along the way.

C. We will **begin with the biblical mandate**, **move to our church's practical response**, describe the future we are pursuing, & **conclude with the culture required to reach it**.

1. **The movement of the series: Motto:** What has Jesus commanded? **Mission:** What are we here to do? **Vision:** What are we asking God to produce? **Values:** What kind of people must we become?

D. Slide10 Sermon Title: Two Commands, One Calling.

E. CM Motto: [a Motto is a simplified rule to live by] *To live the Great Commandment and fulfill the Great Commission.*

- F. Big idea: Jesus commands us to love God wholeheartedly, love people genuinely, and help people become obedient followers of Him.
- G. Sermon purpose: Our church's motto comes directly from Jesus and defines the calling of every believer (not merely pastors, missionaries, or church programs).
- H. By the conclusion of this 4-part series you should be able to
1. Explain the Great Commandment and Great Commission.
 2. See that loving and disciple-making belong together.
 3. Identify one person you can intentionally love and help toward Jesus.
 4. Recognize that we fulfill this calling through Christ's authority, grace, and presence.
- I. Who decides what the church is about? - See every organization eventually has to answer a defining question: Why are we here?
1. A business might exist to serve its customers. A school exists to educate its students. A hospital exists to care for the sick. But who decides why the church exists? [the Church *does not* belong to **us**, it belongs to **Jesus**]
 - a) Therefore, our purpose is not determined by: What is currently popular. What makes us comfortable. What attracts the largest audience. What previous generations preferred. Or What church leaders happen to enjoy.
 2. Jesus determines the purpose of His church. [I thought was going to be a daunting task]
 - a) Our motto summarizes 2 clear mandates Jesus gave His followers: To live the Great Commandment and fulfill the Great Commission.
 - b) These are not competing responsibilities. They are two parts of one calling. We love God. We love people. And because we love God and people, we help people follow Jesus.
- J. Series Refrain: We love **God** completely, love **people** authentically, and make **disciples globally** (Mission statement) as we **live the Great Commandment** and **fulfill the Great Commission**.

A. 28 One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” 29 Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. 30 And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’

B. A teacher of the law asks Jesus: *Which commandment is the most important of all?*

1. Rabbi **Hillel** was promised by a Gentile that he would convert if **Hillel** could *give him the whole Law while he stood on one foot*. - Hillel answered w/a version of the Golden rule: “*What you yourself hate, do not do to your neighbor, this is the whole law, the rest is commentary. Go and learn it!*” [this is the kind of answer this Scribe was looking for from Jesus]
2. The religious teachers had identified hundreds of commands in the Law. The question was essentially, *Of everything God has commanded, what matters most?*
3. Jesus begins by quoting Deut 6:4-5 (shema) *Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.*
4. Again, before Jesus tells us what to do, He reminds us **who God is**.
 - a) There is **one God**. He alone is **Lord**. He has no rivals and deserves **undivided allegiance**. Love the Lord your God.

C. Jesus says we are to love God: With all our **heart** (our desires and affections). With all our **soul** (our life and deepest identity). With all our **mind** (our thoughts and understanding). With all our **strength** (our abilities, energy, and resources).

1. The repeated word is **all**. God does not ask to become **1 important part** of our lives. **He claims the whole of our lives**. [not just date Him once a week]

D. This **command** reveals both **our Purpose** and **our Problem**.

1. We were created to love God completely - but none of us has done so perfectly - our hearts become *divided*. We love *comfort, approval, possessions, pleasure, and control*.

2. The Great Commandment is **not** a ladder by which we climb our way to God. It exposes our need for **grace**. *Gospel ...*

a) ***Jesus** is the only person who loved the Father perfectly, *with all His heart, soul, mind, and strength*. At the **cross**, He bore the judgment deserved by people with divided hearts. Through His **resurrection** and **the gift** of the Holy Spirit, He gives us **new hearts** that can increasingly **love** and **obey** God.

(1) We are **not** saved because we have loved God perfectly. **We learn to love - because He first loved us.** 1 Jn 4:19

E. **Wholehearted love for God cannot remain invisible.** If we truly **love** the God who created people *in His image*, **that love** will change the way we treat them.

IV. Slide12a **2 LOVE PEOPLE AUTHENTICALLY (Mk 12:31 nlt)**

A. **Jesus continues ...** 31 The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

B. The question concerned **one** command, **but** Jesus gives **two**.

1. **Love** for **God** **and** **love** for people **&** they *cannot be separated*.

a) We cannot claim to **love God** while *habitually ignoring, using, despising, or mistreating people*.

C. **Your neighbor** - Our neighbor is **not** merely someone who: **Lives** near us. **Looks** like us. **Votes** like us. **Believes** like us. **Understands** us. **Treats** us well.

1. Slide12b *Our neighbor is the person God has placed *within the reach of our love*.

D. **As yourself** - **Jesus** is **not** primarily commanding us *to develop greater self-esteem*. **He** is pointing to the natural attention we give our own needs.

1. We notice when we are **hungry**, we care when we are **hurt**, we seek help when we are **in trouble**. - **Jesus** tells us to **bring that same attentiveness to the needs of others**.

E. **Authentic love** moves us from asking, *How does this person affect me?* To asking, *How can I seek this person's good?*

F. **What authentic love looks like:** **Listens** before answering. **Speaks** truth with grace. **Offers** forgiveness. **Bears** burdens. **Practices** hospitality. **Meets** practical needs. **Protects** the vulnerable. **Refuses** prejudice. **Remains** present when relationships become inconvenient. **Cares** about a person's eternal relationship with God.

1. Love is *not merely* being pleasant. Authentic love seeks a person's genuine good, *even when* doing so is **costly**.

G. **Slide12c** Mark 12:32-34 The teacher of religious law replied, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other. 33 And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, *and* to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law." 34 Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, "**You are not far from the Kingdom of God.**" *And after that*, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

1. The man understands the truth, *but understanding* the command is not the same *as* **surrendering to the King**. - A person can know the right answers, admire Jesus, *and* still remain only "*not far*" from *His kingdom*.

H. **So**, if we *love God and love people*, we *cannot* be *indifferent* about whether people **know and follow Jesus** ... That brings us to **the 2nd half** of our mandate.

V. **Slide13a 3 MAKE DISCIPLES INTENTIONALLY (Mt 28:18-20 nlt)**

A. Following His resurrection, **Jesus** gathers His disciples *and* gives them their **continuing mission**.

B. 18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

C. **His Declaration:** *All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.*

1. The Great Commission **begins with Jesus**, *not* with us.

- a) Our confidence is not based on: *Our personalities. Our abilities. Our resources. Our programs. Our influence. Our knowledge.* - Our confidence rests on **the absolute authority of the risen Christ.**

D. **The central command: Make disciples.** Not gather crowds, hold services, win arguments, or secure *momentary decisions*. He commands us to **make disciples.**

1. What's a disciple? *One who trusts Jesus. Learns from Jesus. Is being transformed by Jesus. Obeys Jesus. And helps others follow Jesus.

- a) Slide13b *Disciple-making is helping people take their next faithful step toward Jesus and with Jesus.

E. **Going.** *Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.* Our command is to cross boundaries. It reaches every people group and every part of the world.

1. At CM we believe **missions** is the intentional crossing of significant *cultural, linguistic, geographic, or social barriers* to make disciples of Jesus, among people who have limited access to the gospel, and to establish or strengthen the church among them.
2. **Crossing the street to love your neighbor** is obedience and ministry, but it is not necessarily **missions** in the historic missiological sense.
3. I also think: we "Go" by going ourselves, or by supporting those who go.

F. **Baptizing.** Baptism publicly identifies a believer with the triune God, and with the community of faith.

1. Jesus does not envision *isolated disciples*. He gathers people into a new family, the church.
2. We are not merely calling people to *private spiritual experiences*. We are inviting them to confess Christ publicly and belong to His people.

G. **Teaching obedience.** Jesus does not say merely, *Teach them everything I commanded.* He says to teach them to obey everything He commanded.

1. Biblical disciple-making involves more than *transferring information*. Its goal is a transformed life of trusting obedience.

H. **His promised presence.** *I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

1. The Commission **Begins** with **Christ's authority**, and **Ends** with **Christ's presence**. Jesus does not send us out alone.
2. **So remember**, when we feel inadequate, **He is with us**.
When conversations are uncomfortable, **He is with us**. When ministry is costly, **He is with us**. When results appear slowly, **He is with us**. When the mission takes us into unfamiliar places, **He is with us**.
 - a) **The mission** belongs to **Jesus**, **the power** comes from **Jesus**, and **the presence** of **Jesus** sustains us.

VI. Slide 14a **4 KEEP THE COMMANDMENT AND COMMISSION TOGETHER**

- A. The Great Commandment and Great Commission *must never be separated*.
- B. **Love** without **disciple-making** is *incomplete*.
 1. If we meet **temporary needs** but **never** care about *a person's relationship with God* - **our love** has stopped short of their deepest need.
 2. **Authentic love** **does not** treat people as **Evangelism Projects**. But neither does it remain silent about **the Savior** who offers **eternal life**.
- C. **Disciple-making** without **love** becomes mechanical.
 1. If people become *numbers, projects, or achievements*, we are not making disciples in the way of Jesus.
- D. **Loving God** fuels the entire mission.
 1. Slide 14b *We obey the **Great Commission** because **we love Jesus**. **We love people** because **God** first loved us. **We make disciples** because we want others to *know, enjoy, and worship* the **God** we **love**.

Skip?

- E. **Application:**
- F. **Look upward**. **What part** of my life is not fully surrendered to God?
 1. Invite God to uncover misplaced priorities **and** areas of disobedience.
- G. **Look outward**. **Who** has God placed within the reach of my love?

1. Share a meal. Offer forgiveness. Listen carefully. Meet a practical need. Welcome someone who feels overlooked.

H. **Look forward.** **Whom** can I help take one step toward Jesus?

1. Maybe Sharing your testimony. Asking a spiritual question. Reading a Gospel together. Inviting the person into Christian community. Helping a believer understand and obey Scripture. Equipping someone else to disciple another person.

I. ***Our CM Motto** is simple enough to **remember**, but far too great to accomplish *in our own strength*: To **live** the Great Commandment & **fulfill** the Great Commission.

1. **Pray** as team comes up. **Lord** help us to **love** what **You love**, **hate** what **You hate**, & to pursue relationships w/lost people - in hopes of connecting w/them, & subsequently connecting them with **You**.

J. **Communion:**

1. **Bread** - forgive us for **not loving You God**, with everything we are. And forgive us for not **loving the people You** has placed around us. **Forgive us** for when we loose sight of **making disciples** of all nations that do not know **You yet**.
2. **Cup** - Father, **thank You** for loving us before we ever loved You.

K. Keywords: commandment, commission, love,

L. **Afterward:**

M. **Our young MOMS need YOU!** [I would like to **Speak** on behalf of our **Mom's Ministry**]

N. **We only have 3 volunteers for 40 kids!** *Maybe you can serve just 1 or 2 times?*

1. They meet only 2 Thurs mornings a month for 2 1/2 hours (9-11:30).
I would love for our young mom's to not have to sub-in watching

kids so **THEY** can get ministered to. Contact Jasmine/Kelly if you can serve. (they start this next Thurs)

- O. Start the Book of Nehemiah this Wed night 6:30pm in FH.
- P. Come join me for prayer @ 1:30 in Agape rm today.
- Q. **Please join us right after service**, in front of the modulars, as we **pray over** the youth & young adult ministries that will take place in those spaces.