

What is the Mission of the Church?

Definition

The mission of the church is to go into the world and make disciples by declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit and gathering these disciples into churches, that they might worship the Lord and obey his commands now and in eternity to the glory of God the Father.

Great Commission Passages Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 13:10; 14:9; Luke 24:44-49; John 20:21

Why should they take precedence?

- We should ground our mission on Scripture's explicit commands.
- While the OT God shows his heart for the nations, but the OT is mainly concerned with the nation of Israel. Their mission light shines by attraction not invitation. Missions, in the sense of God's people being actively sent out to other peoples with a task to accomplish comes from the New Testament.
- It makes sense that we should look to Jesus for missiological direction, which we find in the gospels (of course).
- The placement of the Great Commission suggests their strategic importance. The last words of Jesus were understood by both the disciples and the early church as his most important sentences he ever uttered and gave shape to the mission activity.
- The Great Commission sums up many of the major themes of the gospels.

Putting it all together

Who? Jesus gave this mission verbally to the first disciples, but it did not end with their deaths. As Lord of the church, he expects his followers to carry out this mission *to the end of the age*. Their mission is our mission.

Why? The authority for our mission comes from Christ. It is rooted in the Word of God and based on the Father's sending of the Son. We are sent because Christ was sent, and we go in his name, under his authority.

What? The mission consists of preaching and teaching, announcing, and testifying, making disciples, and bearing witness. The mission focuses on the initial and continuing verbal declaration of the gospel, the announcement of Christ's death and resurrection and the life found in him when we repent and believe

Where? We are sent into the world. Our strategy is no longer *to come and see* but *to go and tell*. The message of salvation is for every people group *near, far, and everywhere in between*.

How? We go out in the power of the Holy Spirit and in submission to the Son just as he was obedient to and dependent upon the Father.

When? The mission began at Pentecost when the disciples were clothed with power from on high with the presence of the Holy Spirit. The mission will last as long as the promise of Christ's presence lasts; that is, to the end of the age.

To Whom? The church should make disciples of all nations. We must go to every people group, proclaiming the good news to the ends of the earth.

The Whole Bible

How can hopelessly, rebellious, sinful people live in the presence of a perfectly just and righteous God?

Creation

Fall

Redemption

Consummation

Why do we do good?

- We do good works to obey God, whom we love.
- We do good works because we love our neighbor.
- We do good works to show the world God's character and God's work.
- We do good works because they are the fruit of the Spirit's work in our lives.
- We do good works to win a hearing for the gospel.

So what should we as a church do?