

WINNING OTHERS OVER TO CHRIST

Matthew 28:19-20 "Therefore go and make disciples..."

Participating in Victory

Romans 16:20

"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."

Revelation 12:11

"They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony."

The Bible indicates that we are privileged as Christians to participate in the victory of Christ's kingdom and the defeat of Satan as we bear witness to the Gospel.

Entrusted with God's reputation

A. Third commandment

NIV: "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name." A more literal translation might be the KJV: "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain."

The main verb 'take' comes from a Hebrew word which means "to lift," "to carry," or "to bear." The noun translated 'vain' means nothingness, emptiness, or falsehood. The word picture suggests that as God's people we literally carry God's name around with us wherever we go. We should not do so in an empty or false or meaningless way. The heart of this commandment suggests that God entrusts us with His reputation in this world. We represent God to those who do not know Him.

B. Body of Christ

Incarnation: At the heart of Christianity is God taking on human flesh in the person of Jesus and relating to us in the most intimate and understandable of terms. The Bible speaks repeatedly of the church now being the Body of Christ (Romans 12:5-8, 1 Cor. 12:12-27, Eph. 3:6, Col. 1:18). We are the visible presence (e.g. the hands and feet) of Christ in the world today. Each of us has different roles to play in carrying out Christ's work, and that role is vitally important. Christian ministry is by its very nature incarnational.

Displaying the Image of God

We were created to reflect God and put him on display in the world. In redemption, we are being continually conformed to the image of Christ (Rom 8:29). Our job is to put God on display for the world so that when people see us, they see God.