

Belief #7 **The Great Commission through Discipleship and Evangelism**

We believe that every follower of Jesus Christ is called to fulfill the Great Commission — to go into all the world, proclaim the gospel, make disciples, and teach others to obey everything Jesus commanded. Evangelism and discipleship are not optional extras but the central mission of the Church.

Reason 1 Jesus gave the Great Commission as the Church's defining mandate

In his final words before ascending to heaven, Jesus commanded his followers to go and make disciples of all nations — baptizing them and teaching them to obey his commands. This is the central mission of every church in every generation.

Matthew 28:18–20

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

New International Version (NIV)

Reason 2 The gospel must be preached to every creature

Mark's version of the commission emphasizes the universal scope of evangelism — the good news is for every person in all creation. Jesus made the preaching of the gospel the urgent and non-negotiable task of his Church.

Mark 16:15

"He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'"

New International Version (NIV)

Romans 10:14

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

New International Version (NIV)

Reason 3 We are ambassadors of Christ — his witnesses to the world

Paul describes every believer as an ambassador through whom God is making his appeal to the world. We represent Christ himself, carrying the message of reconciliation to those who are separated from God.

2 Corinthians 5:19–20

"...that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

New International Version (NIV)

Reason 4 Discipleship means teaching believers to obey all that Jesus commanded

The Great Commission is not only about making converts — it is about making disciples. Jesus specifically commanded that new believers be taught to obey everything he commanded, making discipleship a lifelong process of formation.

Matthew 28:20

"...and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

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2 Timothy 2:2

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

New International Version (NIV)

Reason 5 Paul, Barnabas, and Timothy show discipleship as intentional mentorship

Barnabas took a chance on the newly converted Paul, investing in him and bringing him into ministry. Paul then poured deeply into Timothy, calling him his "true son in the faith." This chain — Barnabas → Paul → Timothy → faithful others — is the New Testament blueprint for discipleship through personal mentorship.

Acts 9:27

"But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus."

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Acts 11:25–26

"Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people."

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1 Timothy 1:2

"To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

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Reason 6 The early church carried out the Commission with boldness

The book of Acts records how the first believers took the Great Commission seriously — going from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and beyond, planting churches and making disciples wherever they went.

Acts 5:42

"Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah."

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Acts 8:4

"Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went."

New International Version (NIV)

Reason 7 The gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes

Paul declares that he is not ashamed of the gospel because it is the very power of God for salvation — not a human program or a persuasive idea, but a divine force that transforms lives. This conviction fuels bold, faithful evangelism.

Romans 1:16

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."

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1 Corinthians 9:22–23

"I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."

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Summary — Belief #7

- **Jesus gave the Great Commission as the Church's defining mandate** — Matthew 28:18–20 is the foundational command to go and make disciples.
- **The gospel must be preached to every creature** — Mark 16:15 and Romans 10:14 show the universal urgency of evangelism.
- **We are ambassadors of Christ** — 2 Corinthians 5:19–20 defines every believer as his representative.
- **Discipleship means teaching obedience to all Jesus commanded** — Matthew 28:20 and 2 Timothy 2:2 show it is a lifelong process.
- **Paul, Barnabas, and Timothy model discipleship as mentorship** — Acts 9:27, 11:25–26, and 1 Timothy 1:2 show the chain of investment.
- **The early church carried out the Commission with boldness** — Acts 5:42 and 8:4 show the first believers preaching everywhere.
- **The gospel is the power of God for salvation** — Romans 1:16 and 1 Corinthians 9:22–23 fuel bold, faithful witness.