

### **Turn in the Bible to Matthew 22.37-40.**

- † Matthew 22.37-40 [NET]: *Jesus said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”*

### **Why do you think this is called the “Great Commandment”?**

- † Jesus called it that.
- † Jesus said all the teaching of the OT depended on these two commandments, i.e. this embodies all that God requires of us to reflect his image. If we were to do these two things perfectly, we would fulfill our purpose of reflecting God’s image and representing God to others.

### **How can we know this command applies to us today?**

- † It is fundamental and eternal, something God has always desired from people, that they love him and reflect his character to others. We see this throughout the Bible.
- † It is embodied in the moral law of the Mosaic Covenant:
  - Deuteronomy 6.5 [NIV]: *Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*
  - Leviticus 19.18 [NIV]: *Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.*

### **I believe one purpose of the church is to fulfill this “Great Commandment” given by Jesus. How could we summarize the two parts?**

- † Love God with all of yourself
- † Love your neighbor as yourself

### **How do we love God with all of ourselves?**

- † We should do all in our power to bring glory and praise to God through the following:
  - We should passionately engage in various forms of worship during our worship services, including observance of the biblical ordinances.
  - We should offer personal acts of prayer, love, praise, and thanks daily.
  - We should pursue disciplined obedience and seek to reflect God’s character and represent God well to others.
  - We should depend on God and trust his promises.
  - We should be devoted to learning about God through Bible study.
  - We should seek to serve God in ministry and outreach to others.

### **How do we love our neighbors like ourselves?**

- † We should provide an environment of true biblical community, such that believers can gather together for mutual acceptance, love, encouragement, accountability, edification, and fellowship, living out the one-another commands from scripture.

- † We should undertake various forms of Christian love, care, and service as the Lord might lead us, to help those in need both inside and outside the church.
- † We should share the gospel and other biblical truth with each other and live it out by example.

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**Turn in your Bible to Matthew 28.18-20.**

- † Matthew 28.18-20 [NET]: *Then Jesus came up and said to them, “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 the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

**Why do you think this is called the Great Commission?**

- † It was the climactic commission Jesus gave his apostles, before ascending to Heaven.
- † It is the commission that drives the church movement.

**How do we know that this command or commission applies to us today?**

- † Jesus told his disciples to make more disciples, which included teaching those disciples to obey everything Jesus had taught the original disciples. Thus the new disciples also had to obey this commission, and make new disciples, teaching this third generation to obey all that Jesus had commanded, which included this command, and so on. This is for every Christian.

**I believe one purpose of the church is to fulfill this “Great Commission” given by Jesus. How could we summarize the two parts?**

- † We are to lead people to faith and baptism in Christ through evangelism.
- † We are to teach people to obey all that Jesus has commanded, growing them to maturity in faith.

**What should we do to help people come to faith and baptism in Christ?**

- † We should seek to make the Gospel of Christ known to all people by every means available, including the following:
  - We should personally share the gospel with others in our lives.
  - We should prepare to give a reason for our hope and defend our faith.
  - We should hold church-wide outreach efforts.
  - We should have evangelistic elements in our worship services.
  - We should support those facilitating church planting and missionary work, both domestic and abroad.

**Do you think baptizing people in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit implies we first teach them something about who the Father, Son, and Spirit are? Should we be teaching seekers and new believers basic theology?**

- † Yes, there is this implication, as seen by what Jesus himself taught people and how the early church taught people in the NT and afterward.

**Jesus also said we should teach people to obey all that he commanded. So what specific things should we do to accomplish teaching people all about essential theology and the commands which will help them follow Christ, reflect God’s character, and represent God to others?**

- † First we need to prepare ourselves! We need to understand and live out what we want to teach:
  - We should study the Bible and pursue applying it to our way of thinking and acting.
  - We should seek to maintain our own spiritual health and growth.
- † We should teach the Bible!
  - We should teach the Bible in our worship services.
  - We should teach the Bible to all who will listen in other ministry venues we deem effective.
  - We should use the Bible to instruct, encourage, edify, correct, and strengthen believers of all ages, to prepare them for effective Christian life, service, and multiplication as leaders.

**From other NT teaching, we know we need to grow people to be mature in faith, Christ-like in character, and prepared to minister in Christ’s name. Beyond teaching the Bible, are there other ways we should be helping people experience this transforming sanctificational growth?**

- † We can provide encouragement and accountability in our community.
- † We can provide mentoring and counseling.
- † We can provide leadership training and ministry-specific training.
- † We should participate in these ourselves too!

**What do you think of a purpose statement like this: “We seek to empower people to develop strong relationships with God and each other, by developing lives of passionate worship, sacrificial love, and spiritual transformation”?**

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**What do you think of this statement: “While the Bible makes clear the purposes of the church, it does not prescribe much about the form these ministries should take, leaving each local church the flexibility to be creative in reaching its local population”?**

**Look up Colossians 3.16 [someone to read NET, ESV, NLT, HCSB; others misuse dative object of verb for dative of means].**

- † Colossians 3.16 [NET]: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and exhorting one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, all with grace in your hearts to God.”

**Does this verse tell us exactly which kind of songs to sing?**

- † It mentions singing three types of songs: psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.
- † Literal Greek: psalms, songs of praise, and spiritual songs. There were no “hymns” as we think of them back then. The idea was to sing various types of songs, whichever was useful for praise!

**Does this verse or any other limit us on style, format, or forum of musical worship? Or any that say how many songs we should have, how many verses we should sing, how much time we should devote to this in our services?**

- † No!

**Can you think of any limitations we might place on ourselves?**

- † We should not choose lead people into irreverence or distract them from the purpose.