

Aim of the Church

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I. Introduction.

- A. Many have set goals to reach the whole world for Christ in fulfilling the Great Commission and have said that this is the central concern.
- B. Our calling is determined by the Scriptures, God's providence and the inner conviction of the Holy Spirit.
- C. There is a Scriptural precedent for specialized functions in the ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-12, Acts 20:4)
- D. A need does not constitute a call nor does another's encroachment upon territory justify changing an aim.
- E. The aim of the organization is to ultimately help fulfill Christ's Great Commission.
 - 1. It is the essence of the calling.
 - 2. An aim is the direction one is going and is something that one cannot ultimately fulfill. The Great Commission being preaching to the lost and building the saved can never be totally reached.
 - 3. Fulfilling the Great Commission is both preaching the good news and a life of obedience.

II. Christ's Great Commission.

- A. The mission arises out of God Himself - God is a sending God.
- B. There is a cost to the Great Commission. (John 20:21)
- C. The result is disciples. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- D. There is power from the Great Commission. (Luke 24, Acts 1:8)
- E. The motive of the Great Commission is basically simple obedience. There is also a loving concern for people that precedes from the Great Commandment. There is the glory of God too.
- F. The ultimate goal is saving the lost and building up the body - these are essential qualifiers of the Great Commission.

III. Principles from Matthew 9.

- A. Jesus' compassion: studying the Bible is something that ought to affect the heart.
- B. There is a great work but very few people who are really laboring. Further there are a lot of generals without armies. (Luke 10:2)

C. A survey of the greatest needs of the church: 1. Getting laypeople involved, 2. Developing the home, 3. Solving interracial tension.

IV. Contributions to the Great Commission - discipleship.

A. Multiplication is not geometric progression but the increase in the number of disciples - this is one of the emphases.

B. A functional disciple is fulfilling his role in his own body - this goes back to the concept of each person contributing his gift to the body.

C. A functioning disciple is a basic disciple. This means first to be identified with Christ. It also means to be continuing in the Word, walking in love and bearing fruit. It is also fulfilling the unique role that the person has been equipped to accomplish. Both Timothy and Dorcus were functioning disciples but they were gifted in different directions. (Acts 16:1, 9, 1 Peter 4:10, Colossians 4:17)

D. Every Christian can be a functioning disciple.

V. How the aim should be accomplished.

A. A disciple maker is a functioning disciple carrying the primary responsibility for developing another disciple.

B. A disciple making ministry is a ministry carried on in an environment where groups and individuals are winning souls to Christ and developing disciples. Or it can be a cell of two or more people who pool their resources to accomplish the work of disciple making emphasizing a multiplication of these ministries.

VI. The results of a disciple making ministry: others also, functioning disciples, a contribution to the body, Timothy's, missionaries. (2 Timothy 2:2, Philippians 2:25)

Application questions.

1. How does the speaker explain the Great Commission?

2. What does the speaker feel the Navigator's contribution to the Great Commission is? How does he show sensitivity to different gifts and directions?

3. In what way are you particularly gifted to partake in the Great Commission? List two or three ways you might be able to use your gift to win lost souls and build up the body of Christ.
