

Chart 10: What Is Commanded in the Great Commission?—A Linear View of the Five Great Commission Passages

Thomas P. Johnston, Ph.D. (August 2, 2021)

The Missionary Call	Geographic Extent			The Missionary Method			The Missionary Message		The Necessary Nurture	The Missionary Example	The Necessary Power	A Sure Fulfillment
	Going; Go; Send	"All the world . . . to all creation"	"To all nations, beginning from Jerusalem"	(1) Jerusalem, (2) Judea, (3) Samaria, (4) uttermost parts of the earth	Preach; proclaim	Witness	Disciple/ Teach	The Gospel: "the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day"	The Message: "repentance for the forgiveness of sins . . . in His name"	Disciple: (1) going; (2) baptizing; (3) teaching to obey	Christ	Holy Spirit
Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15; John 20:21	Mark 16:15	Luke 24:47	Acts 1:8	Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47	Luke 24:48; Acts 1:8	Matt 28:19	Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46	Luke 24:47	Matt 28:19-20	John 20:21	Acts 24:49; Acts 1:8	Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8

Chart 11: Ten Approaches to the Great Commission, the Christian Life, and Holy Living

	EVANGELISM			DISCIPLESHIP			CHRISTIAN STOICISM	CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY		
Great Commission Emphasis	Luke 24:46-49, Proclamation of the Gospel			Matthew 28:19-20, Discipleship (1) Make disciples; (2) Be a disciple			1 Corinthians 11:1, <i>Imitatio Christi</i>	Love One Another John 13:34-35		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Evangelism one's primary purpose in life	Using One's Spiritual Gift(s)	Finding One's Purpose(s) in Life	Practicing Spiritual Disciplines	Christlikeness	Cost of Discipleship	Living the Virtues	Developing a Godly Family	Developing A Loving Church	Developing a Christian Society
Biggest Issue	Every believer a called evangelist	Spiritual Gifts May or May Not Include Evangelism as a Spiritual Gift	Evangelism May or May Not Be One of the Found Purposes in Life	Spiritual Disciplines May or May Not Include Evangelism	Evangelism May or May Not Be Included as Part of the Imitation of Christ	Evangelism is theologically irrelevant	Conversion is a process; thus evangelism is unnecessary	Conversion is a process, similar to catechetics	Conversion to community, then to the King of community	Cultural Mandate, Genesis 1:26, 28
	Mere Evangelism, Saving Souls	Evangelism (if considered) Is One of a Number of Equal Priorities			Evangelism a Part of Christlikeness Only if It Can Be Proven that It Was a Part of Christ's Ministry	Evangelism Is Counter-Productive	Evangelism is unnecessary	Evangelism is life; life is evangelism	Evangelism is love; love is evangelism	Evangelism is Christian worldview; Christian worldview is evangelism
Orientation	Individualistic/ Other-Focused			Individualistic/Personal-Focused			Socialistic/Social or Society-Focused			
Problem to Fulfilling "Great Commission"	Lack of Boldness and Zeal	Ignorance of One's Spiritual Gift	Ignorance of One's Purpose(s) in Life	Lack of Discipline in Seeking God	Lack of Christlikeness	Lack of self-sacrifice on behalf of humanity's needs	Living the Vices (seven Cardinal Sins) instead of the Virtues (seven Cardinal Virtues)	Dysfunctional family systems	Lack of love; pharisaicalism; doctrinaire views; traditionalism	Lack of emphasis on the good in man, his achievements and possibilities
Greatest Need to Fulfill Great Commission	Training in Communicating the Gospel	Spiritual Gifts Inventory with Training in Specific Spiritual Gift	Insight into Various Life's Purposes and Training in Fulfilling These	Training in Practicing the Spiritual Disciplines	Aspects of Christlikeness with Training in Emulating These	Understanding humanity's needs and	Lists of the Virtues with Clues in Living These	Assistance in healthy family systems	Emphasis on love in church	Emphasis on the good in man
Main Reason for Difficulties in Life	Persecution Due to the Gospel	Trials and Tribulations in this Life If Evangelism Is a Spiritual Discipline, Spiritual Gift, Life's Purpose, or Part of Imitating Christ, then There Is the Possibility of Persecution for the Gospel				Fighting for the Mankind's Humanity	Fighting against the Sinful Nature	Dysfunctional family systems	Lack of love in church	Emphasis on negative in man
Life's Results	Souls Saved	A Fulfilled Life Using One's Spiritual Gifts	A Fulfilled Life Living according to God's Purpose	A Personally Spiritual Disciplined Life	Christlikeness	Victory over the Enemies of Mankind's True Humanity	Victory over the Flesh	Healthy families and healthy persons	Loving and growing churches	A positive society
Possible Medieval Proponents	(Early) Waldenses and Albigenes				Franciscans (approval of antagonism to proclamational evangelism)		Dominicans (inquisitors); intensely antagonistic to proclamational evangelism)			
Possible Current Evangelical Proponents	Campus Crusade	The Navigators						Focus on the Family		

A deeper-life fallacy: I cannot evangelize until I am more perfectly sanctified.

A discipleship fallacy: I should not continue evangelizing until I have first establish those I have led to Christ—not a question of either/or, rather both/and.