

THE GREAT COMMISSION
Reference: **Matthew 28:18-20**
Pastor Larry Webb

This famous text is most often called **the Great Commission**. It's also found in the other three gospels in addition to the book of Acts:
References: **Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47; John 20:21** and **Acts 1:8**

Definition: A commission consists of instruction or a _____ assigned to someone or a group of people.

The reason Jesus was able to issue these instructions is because He has all authority.
verse eighteen (see screen)

Definition: Authority is defined as the _____ and _____ to give orders, make decisions and enforce obedience.

verse nineteen (see screen)

The **mission** in the **Great Commission** is that we are to _____! That is the primary command in this section: i.e. we are to make disciples that in turn make disciples.

The actual word disciple means “_____” or “_____”; but, a true disciple is much more than an average classroom student. An authentic disciple is a student committed to both learning from his teacher and imitating him as much as possible. In a technical sense, someone is made a beginning disciple at salvation; but, he or she is a disciple in an infantile sense because becoming a disciple in a more mature and developed sense is a process that requires continued commitment and time.

Definition: A fully developed disciple (follower) of Jesus Christ is a Christian learner that is radically committed to both his _____ (Jesus) and His _____.

The discipleship process starts at evangelism.

Definition: Evangelism is the presentation of the Christian gospel (message) through _____ or _____.

Reference: **Acts 14:20b, 21** (see screen)

There is one imperative verb in the Great Commission and that is to make disciples; but, in addition there are three participles that together reinforce that imperative.

- The first participle is _____.
verse nineteen, “Go therefore”
In the original language that phrase reads “*as you are going*” meaning as we are going throughout the course of our existence on this earth we are to make disciples; BUT, this phrase “*Go therefore*” also implies that we are sometimes to go in a more intentional, deliberate and strategic sense where we wouldn't normally go because we are to make disciples from all people groups in all the nations.

verse nineteen, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...”
“*Nations*” is translated from the Greek word *ethne*. Our word *ethnic* comes from *ethne* and an ethnic group is most often called a _____.

Definition: An unreached people group is a people group where there _____ indigenous Christians to effectively evangelize that people group. In the 1990's mission strategists quantified that term “unreached people group” as where there are less than ___ percent of actual indigenous evangelical Christians in that population subgroup.

- The second participle is _____.
verse nineteen, “...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”
Definition: Baptism means someone is _____ his previous decision to receive Jesus and he does that through being immersed in water picturing Jesus death and burial and then being raised up from the water picturing Jesus resurrection.
- The third participle is _____.
verse twenty, “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

Reference: **Acts 17:5-6** (see screen)