

## **OUR COMMITMENTS AS A GOSPEL-COMMISSIONED CHURCH**

### *Part 1: Matthew 28:16-20*

For the glory of God, in obedience to Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we, as a Church, strive together to fulfill this mission: *We are a Gospel-Commissioned, Disciple-Making Church which Proclaims God's Word, Equips God's People and Witnesses to the Lost.* This mission of our Church is anchored upon the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ. In light of our church mission, let's consider the fundamental commitments we need to make as a Gospel-Commissioned, Disciple-Making Church.

**1. *We are a Church committed to \_\_\_\_\_ the risen and reigning Christ.***

Before the disciples of Christ were commissioned to go and carry out their gospel mission, they first prostrated themselves before their risen Lord in humble worship (Matt. 28:16-17). They worshipped Jesus as the resurrected and reigning Christ who declares that "*all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him*" (Matt. 28:18). Jesus's sovereign authority to rule, to save and to judge has been given to Him as the Risen Messiah by God the Father (Phil. 2:8-11). As the Sovereign Lord, Jesus reigns over all the heavenly realms which include all the holy angels, all the unrighteous angels and all the saints in glory. Jesus also rules supremely over all the earth. He has sovereign and unrivaled dominion over all rulers and nations everywhere in this planet. He is the One who leads, directs and orchestrates all the affairs of human history to serve the purpose of His glorious will. As Christians saved by the grace and mercy of Jesus, we should gladly worship Jesus and joyfully submit to the Lordship of Jesus. As our Lord, our lives belong to Jesus and every spheres and details of our life are directed by Him. Jesus deserves our utmost worship and supreme allegiance. The chief end and ultimate goal of the Great Commission is the universal worship of King Jesus.

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**2. *We are a Church committed to \_\_\_\_\_ the mission strategy of Christ.***

Jesus' Great Commission also specifies the mission strategy of our Lord: "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you*" (Matt. 28:19-20). This Great Commission has four components. First, Jesus commissions us to make disciples. This is the main and central command of our Lord. A disciple is someone who trusts in Christ alone for salvation and follows Jesus in lifelong learning, obedience, self-denial and submission (John 6:40; Rom. 10:9; Matt. 16:24; 11:29; John 8:31). If you are to obey Jesus' Great Commission, you must first be a genuine, committed and loving disciple of Jesus. Every disciple is a disciple-maker. Every Christian is called to reproduce another disciple of Christ. We are all tasked by our Lord to help others know, trust, follow, love and obey Jesus. Hence, we need to go and reach out to unbelieving people. Going is the second component of the Great Commission. Disciple-making begins with evangelism. We are called to go and proclaim the Gospel to all nations or to all people groups around the world. Baptizing Jesus' disciples in the name of the Triune God is the third component of the Great Commission. Through baptism, a believer identifies himself with Christ and the body of Christ. Finally, teaching disciples to obey everything Jesus commands is the fourth component of the Great Commission. The goal of our teaching is not merely the transfer of biblical information, but lifelong obedience to Christ.

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