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Series: [The Great Commission](#)

# The Great Commission (5)

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[Matthew 28:16-20](#)

(Continuation from [09/30/12](#))

## The Making Disciples of All Nations, Part 1

When Jesus came into the world, He wanted to glorify the Father. In [John 17](#), this is outlined for us so beautifully, turn to it for just a moment. In [John 17:3](#), it says, **“And this is life eternal that they might know Thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.”** And then Jesus said, **“I have glorified Thee on the earth.”** That was His mission. I came to glorify You. And how? To reconcile man back for that is the single greatest way that God is glorified. That’s what Christ came for. That’s why He came. I have glorified You. How did You do that? **“For the Son of Man is come to seek and to...what?...save that which was lost.”** ([Luke 19:10](#)) Yes, Christ came to glorify God. How did He do that? By seeking and saving that which was lost.

Now that is precisely, beloved, that is precisely what the mission of the church is. It’s no different because we are an extension of God the Father. We are an extension of the ministry of God the Father. His desire to be glorified by the salvation of lost sinners, Christ’s desire to glorify the sinner through the salvation of lost sinners, our desire is to glorify the Father through the salvation of lost sinners and that is our purpose.

And in [John 17](#), it comes through so very, very clearly. He says in [verse 6](#), **“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world.”** I told them about You, He said. I conveyed to them Your desire, Your motive, Your mission. (see [John 17:6-7](#)). In other words, they know that I’m doing what You desire to be done. You see the flow? He says to the Father, **“Father, I’ve glorified You, I’ve told them exactly what Your intention is, what Your mission is, they’ve gotten it. They understand it. They’ve kept Your word.”** [Verse 8](#),

In other words, the Savior is saying they understand the mission. They understand why You sent Me into the world. And [verse 9](#), **“I pray for them. I pray not for the world, but for them whom Thou hast given Me, for they’re Thine.”** We belong to God. We’re in a link with the same mission that the Father had.

Now drop down to [verse 14](#). He says, “Look, Father, I know what Your motive is to be glorified. I know what Your mission is to reach the lost. I came into the world with the same motive and the same mission, and I passed it on to these disciples. They understand Your word. They understand I was sent from You. They understand the mission. They know why I’m here. They know what they’re to do. And I ask, O God, three things, that they may follow Your word, that they may be kept from the evil one and that they may be pure. That’s what I pray for them.”

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And then [verse 18](#) is the climax. “**As You sent Me into the world,**” underline the word “**as.**” That is the dominant idea here that conveys the intent. What do you mean by that? “**As you sent Me.**” Well, why did He send You? “**To glorify Himself through winning lost men and women to salvation.**” “**As You have sent Me into the world, the unredeemed world to win men and women, even so have I also sent them into the world.**” It’s the same thing.

**Beloved, we have no different mission in the world than the incarnate Jesus Christ had to fulfill the heart of God in winning the lost.** That is our mission...to glorify God by bringing salvation to lost men and women.

What then is the church to be doing? What then is the church’s mission, objective goal and priority? Is it fellowship? Listen, if God wanted us just to exist for fellowship, we ought to be saved and taken instantly to heaven where fellowship is perfect, where there is nothing to violate fellowship, and nothing to break fellowship and everything to stimulate fellowship, and perfect harmony, and perfect order, and perfect love, and perfect communion and perfect communication. No, if fellowship was our purpose, God would have taken us to heaven.

**Teaching?** If our purpose is that we may know doctrine and know knowledge, the best thing God could do is take us immediately to heaven where we would know as we are known instantaneously and all teaching ceases because everybody knows everything they need to know. No. If the purpose of the church was teaching, we’d be gone.

**Well, what about praise?** If God wanted perfect praise out of His church, He’d take them to heaven, too, because that’s where perfect praise occurs. Our praise here is muddled up, just like our teaching is. If all God wanted was fellowship, then let’s get to heaven and have perfect fellowship. If all God wants is that we have understanding and knowledge of His Word, then let’s get to heaven and get perfect knowledge and not have to listen to a whole lot of teachers and try to figure out who’s right. If all God wants out of us is praise, then let’s get up there with the angelic chorus and the redeemed of the ages and let’s get on with our eternal praise.

The point is this, and I want you to get it, there is only one reason we are here and one reason alone, and that is that we may seek and save those who are lost. It is as the Father sent the Son that the Son sends us. If the Father wanted fellowship with the Son, He would have kept Him in heaven. If the Father wanted perfect knowledge with the Son, He would have kept Him in heaven. If the Father wanted the perfect praise that was His, He would have kept Him in heaven. He wouldn’t need to send Him to earth. But if the Father wanted to redeem fallen men, He had to send Him to this earth. That’s the only reason we’re here. There is no other reason.

Now I hope that simplifies it for you. That’s it. So when you evaluate your Christian commitment and you evaluate how you’re using your Christian life, ask yourself one question: am I involved in winning lost men and women to Jesus Christ? Is that where

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my time and energy and effort and talent and money is going? To do that? That's the only reason you're here.

**So unless you're committed to the fact that we are here for the responsibility of winning a lost world to Jesus Christ, then you better reexamine why you are existing.**

**Fellowship, teaching, praise are not the mission of the church.** They're part of the preparation and the training for the mission. I mean, a great athlete does a lot of things in training, but the training is not to be confused with the competing and the winning. It is not to be confused with running the race. All the exercise and preparation you go through in your education is not to be confused with succeeding in your profession. And when the church meets for fellowship, teaching and praise, all that is only preparation for the running of the race and winning of lost people to Christ. That's why we're here, that is it.