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## Scriptural References:

Matthew 3:1-17  
Matthew 5:17-20  
Matthew 7:13-29  
Matthew 8:18-22  
Matthew 13:1-23  
Matthew 16:18-20, 24-28  
Matthew 18:15-20  
Matthew 22:34-40  
Matthew 28:16-20  
Mark 1:1-15  
Mark 8:34-38  
Mark 12:28-34  
Mark 16:15-20  
Luke 3:1-9, 15-18  
Luke 4:16-19  
Luke 9:23-27, 57-62  
Luke 12:32  
Luke 14:25-35  
Luke 24:44-49  
John 10:25-30  
John 14:15-31  
John 15:1-27  
Acts 1:4-8  
Acts 2:36-41  
Acts 8:12-13, 26-40  
Acts 9:18  
Acts 10:44-48  
Acts 11:15-18  
Acts 16:15, 33-34  
Acts 17:30-31  
Acts 18:8-10  
Acts 19:1-8  
Acts 22:14-16  
Romans 6:1-23  
1 Corinthians 1:13-17  
1 Corinthians 12:12-14  
Galatians 3:26-29  
Ephesians 1:11-14  
Ephesians 4:1-16  
Colossians 1:15-20  
Colossians 2:9-12

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# Church And The Great Commission

What is the importance and significance of the Great Commission for Christians today? Did Jesus instruct only His disciples (at that time) to fulfill the Great Commission? Or is it binding upon the Church of God today?

The Great Commission in [Mt 28:18-20](#) includes specific personal instructions from Jesus Christ to His disciples, before His ascension to heaven. He spoke to them and said: 1) Make disciples of all nations. 2) Baptize them in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. 3) Teach them to obey God's commandments. Jesus gave this Great Commission for His true Church - all disciples - to obey up until His return.

**1. Make disciples of all nations** - (Read Tract - 'Repent Or Perish!' and 'Parable Of The Sower'). We were never called to be simply church members or converts, or part of a particular sect or denomination. We were called to be 'true disciples' of Christ. A true disciple has repented, been baptized and therefore, has the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He has rejected his old, sinful lifestyle. He now lives a lifestyle that is lead, guided and directed by the Holy Spirit. He has been translated into the Kingdom of light and everlasting life [Col 1:13-14](#). There is nothing that one can do to earn his salvation, but repentance is a pre-requirement for salvation. Jesus has appointed His disciples to proclaim the gospel "good news," and to make more disciples. A true disciple of Christ has "counted the cost," and is determined to begin, and continue to be obedient to God and His commandments. He lives a life of discipline and self-sacrifice - having crucified the sinful carnal nature, with its carnal passions [Gal 2:20](#). We become new creatures in Christ Jesus [2 Cor 5:17](#). Jesus used two examples to illustrate how we must take into account our level of commitment, before becoming His disciples and recognize the consequences of our decision to follow Him [Lk 14:26-33](#). We must be prepared to face any trials and persevere in the faith. We must follow through on our commitment and endure right through to the end. It is crucial that we remain faithful and obedient to God, and put God first in our lives despite trials, hardships, pressures, challenges, personal sacrifices, difficulties and temptations (Read Tract - 'Parable Of The Sower'). The trials that the children of God face now are incomparable with the glorious future destiny that awaits them [Ro 8:18](#). Keeping focused on our eternal goals, which are eternal life in the Kingdom of God, will help us to persevere in the faith. We must run with patience the race that is set before us, knowing that a crown of righteousness awaits us at the end, when we focus on Jesus and never turn back [2 Ti 4:8](#). We must never waver in our faith and commitment, devotion and dedication to God [Lk 9:62; Heb 6:4-6; 12:1-2](#). God promises that He will help those who are seriously willing and determined to surrender their lives to Him [Heb 13:5](#). Jesus said that our love for Him must exceed our love for family and even our very own lives [Lk 14:26](#). The greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength [Mt 22:37](#) (Read Tract - 'The Greatest Commandment'). We will serve God faithfully and wholeheartedly out of a loving, obedient and humble heart. Being disciples of Christ involves action on our part. We grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior [2 Pe 3:18](#). We must abide in Christ and His word, and follow His perfect example [Jn 15:1-17; 1 Cor 11:1; 1 Pe 2:21](#). As Christ's disciples, we must bear fruit worthy of our calling and our repentance. We glorify God by bringing forth much fruit [Lk 3:8](#). A true disciple will demonstrate his love for other disciples, not in word but in deed [Jn 13:35](#). It is called agape love, which is a self-sacrificial love [1 Cor 13](#). A true disciple of Christ will live a life of holiness, godliness, purity, truth and righteousness. Not in deliberate, habitual or willful sin [1 Jn 1:5-6](#). He will avoid the sinful pleasures of this world, including sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; and live a life that is pleasing, honorable and acceptable to the Lord, and will bring glory and honor to His name [1 Cor 6:18-20; Gal 5:19-21; Heb 10:26-31](#). Christ's disciples will avoid the corruption and evil ways of this world [2 Pe 1:4](#). We must stand up for what is right, and actively promote and live by God's commandments; and be strongly opposed to what is evil. We cannot follow both Christ and the world's ideas, customs and traditions at the same time. Sinful passions, lifestyles and habits must be left behind, and there must be no turning back. Our hearts, minds and lives are totally transformed and renewed [Ro 12:1-2](#). By the power of God's Holy Spirit, we will begin to imitate God's divine nature. Those who have forsaken all for Christ, will receive great and eternal rewards - everlasting life in the Kingdom of God [Mt 19:27-29; Rev 5:10](#). A true disciple of Christ will 'deny self, take up his cross, and follow Christ' [Mt 16:25-26; Lk 14:27](#). We must live a life of self-sacrifice - death to self; the world; and sin. It means living according to the Spirit; not according to the flesh. We put to death the misdeeds of the body, including our own ideas, thoughts, interests, will and plans, and replace them for Jesus.' Those who are led by the Spirit of God, belong to God. This is how we are identified as the children of God [Ro 8:12-14](#). It means surrendering our lives to God and His will [Lk 9:24-25](#). Our true faith in, and commitment to God is revealed during trials, which come to all disciples [Jn 16:33; 1 Pe 1:7; 4:12](#). God promises that He will rescue the godly out of any trials, no matter how difficult the circumstances may be [2 Pe 2:9](#). Disciples of Christ will strive to obey God's commandments, and strive to become mature Christians [Mt 4:4; Col 1:28](#). They will also feed other disciples with the true word of God [Jn 21:15-16](#).

**2. Baptizing them in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit** - (Read Tract - 'Baptism - Requirement For Salvation?'). We are baptized into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which means that upon receipt of the Holy Spirit, we are immersed into the divine Family and power of God, as Spirit-begotten children of God (we will be born of God and born of the Spirit at Christ's return) (Read Tract - 'Are You Born Again?'). Notice the sequence to receiving the Holy Spirit - 1) Repentance [Ac 2:38](#). 2) Full-immersion water baptism [Ac 8:38-39](#). 3) Prayer and the laying on of hands [Ac 8:14-17; 19:4-6](#). 4) Receipt of the Holy Spirit, which will provide spiritual guidance and direction, and help us in our spiritual growth and maturity [Ro 8:9](#). Christ's disciples always baptized repentant believers "in the Name of Jesus Christ." It means to baptize in the authority of Jesus Christ. One is not baptized into a particular sect or denomination. Baptism is a required step in God's plan and gift of salvation [Mk 16:16](#). The only pre-requisite for baptism is repentance, and belief in the gospel "good news" of the Kingdom of God. It includes faith in, and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Master, Lord and Savior, and His perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness, cleansing, purification of, and redemption from our sins [Heb 1:3; 9:12](#). There is no waiting period involved. One does not need to understand the entire Bible to repent and be baptized. Repentance and baptism is a pre-requisite for the forgiveness (remission) of sins [Ac 2:38](#). The only scripturally correct method for baptism is full-immersion. Sprinkling and pouring are unscriptural methods of baptism. In the New Testament, the Greek word 'baptizo' was translated into English as 'baptize.' It means "to immerse" or "dip into." It does not refer to either sprinkling or pouring. Water baptism is an outward demonstration of: 1) One's faith in, and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. 2) Our faith in Jesus' crucifixion (death and burial) and resurrection. It also represents our hope beyond the grave, which is a resurrection to immortality, at Christ's glorious and imminent return (Read Tract - 'Glorious And Imminent Return Of Jesus Christ!'). 3) Genuine, heartfelt and total repentance of one's old sinful life; and determination to begin a new, converted life in Christ. We become servants of God, and

of true righteousness and holiness. Baptism pictures the cleansing of our past sins. We are no longer slaves of sin [Ro 6:15-19](#). Baptism is a serious, life-transforming, lifelong, conscious and total commitment. It demonstrates complete devotion, commitment, dedication and unconditional surrender of our entire lives to God, and His will and authority. There is a symbolism behind the biblical method of baptism by full-immersion: 1) Water baptism symbolizes Jesus' death, burial and resurrection [1 Pe 3:21-22](#). It pictures one's death, burial and resurrection from a "grave" [Ro 6:2-6; Col 2:12-13](#). 2) Being fully immersed (going down under the water) pictures the death and burial of Jesus, and of our old sinful life and carnal nature. It pictures the dying to, and rejection of the old sinful self, with its carnal passions. We become dead to: self; sin; and the world. We demonstrate to God our serious desire to permanently leave behind, destroy and bury the past, sinful way of life; and begin to follow and surrender to God's way of life, with obedience to His commandments [Ac 2:38-41](#). 3) Coming up out of the water pictures Jesus' resurrection, and our rising to new life, as new creatures in Christ Jesus [2 Cor 5:17](#), which is free from the death penalty our sins have incurred, as Christ was the atoning sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins, through whom we now have reconciliation to God. Having been purchased by the blood of Christ, we now belong to God [1 Cor 6:20](#) (Read Tract - 'Precious Blood Of Jesus - Wonder Working Power!'). Jesus died in our place, for our sins - the punishment that all of us deserved [Is 53:5-6; 2 Cor 5:21](#). Scriptures reveal that baptism was always performed where there was much water, deep enough for full-immersion. For example, Jesus came up out of the water, when He was baptized by John the Baptist [Mt 3:16](#). When Philip baptized the Ethiopian Eunuch, they both went down into the water [Ac 8:38-39](#). Upon repentance and baptism, we receive God's gift of the Holy Spirit [Ac 2:38](#). This is God's seal of ownership upon His children. We are anointed with His Holy Spirit [2 Cor 1:21-22; Eph 4:30](#). We become sanctified - set apart as holy or sacred for God, and His special use or purpose. The "baptism of the Holy Spirit" means that upon receipt of the Holy Spirit, we are baptized by one Spirit, and immersed into the spiritual body of Christ [1 Cor 12:13, 27](#). A person is ready for baptism when he is truly repentant of his sins, and has "counted the cost" of being a disciple of Christ, and beginning and continuing a new life in Christ [Lk 14:25-35](#). A person must be fully mature to understand the issues of repentance and baptism. There are no scriptural examples where children were baptized. A person must consider re-baptism if he had little to no understanding about the real meaning and purpose of baptism. Both Jesus and Paul let others do the baptizing, therefore there is no restriction of baptism to a leading professional minister in the New Testament. For example, Ananias baptized Paul [Ac 9:17-18](#). "Baptism with fire" is also mentioned in the Bible, which means to be immersed in the lake of fire, and is reserved for the incorrigibly wicked. This is their ultimate destiny! - (Read Tract - 'Hell And Unquenchable Fire!') [Mt 3:7-12; Mal 4:1-3; Rev 21:8](#).

**3. Teach them to obey everything Christ has commanded** - (Please Read Tract - 'Ten Commandments'). The following passages in the New Testament emphasize the significance that Jesus and the apostles placed on obeying the Ten Commandments: [1st Commandment - Mt 4:10; 22:37-38. 2nd Commandment - 1 Jn 5:21; 1 Cor 6:9; 10:7,14; Eph 5:5. 3rd Commandment - Mt 5:33-34; 7:21-23; Lk 11:2; 1 Ti 6:1. 4th Commandment - Lk 4:16; Ac 13:14, 42, 44; 16:13; 17:2; 18:4; Heb 4:4, 9. 5th Commandment - Mt 15:3-6; 19:17-19; Eph 6:2-3. 6th Commandment - Mt 5:21-22; 19:17-18; Ro 13:9; Gal 5:19-21; Jas 2:10-12. 7th Commandment - Mt 5:27-28; 19:17-18; Ro 13:9; 1 Cor 6:9; 10:8; Eph 5:5; Gal 5:19-21. 8th Commandment - Mt 19:17-18; Ro 13:9; Eph 4:28. 9th Commandment - Mt 19:17-18; Ro 13:9; Col 3:9; Eph 4:25. 10th Commandment - Lk 12:15; Ro 7:7; 13:9; Eph 5:3, 5](#). The Ten Commandments describe God's holy, righteous and loving character. God's character never changes, and therefore His Law never changes [Nu 23:19; Ps 111:7-8; Heb 13:8](#). His Law is perfect and His ordinances are righteous [Ps 19:7-14](#). Many professing Christians falsely believe that God's Law began when God made the covenant with ancient Israel at Mt. Sinai, and that the covenant continued only until Jesus' death. When in fact, God's Laws existed long before Adam and Eve, and were obeyed by Abraham hundreds of years before Moses. Given that God's Ten Commandments, His laws and statutes existed even before the Sinaitic covenant with Israel, they were not abolished when that covenant ended at Jesus' death. Only the sacrifices and physical rituals that God added after the covenant had been made at Mt. Sinai, ceased to be necessary, after Jesus' once-for-all perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. God's Commandments were obeyed by Jesus, His apostles and the early Church. Jesus explicitly shows that we must obey God's Commandments, which are a pre-requisite for inheriting eternal life. [Mt 19:16-19; Mt 22:37-40](#). Jesus also clearly mentions in [Mt 5:17-20](#), that He came to fulfill the Law; not to abolish it. He did not destroy, or put aside the laws of God; but He fulfilled and obeyed them. According to the Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, the word "fulfill" in [Matthew 5:17](#) signifies "to fill" or "to fulfill, complete." It is from the Greek 'pleroo' meaning 'to fill to the full.' 'Fulfilled' is from the Greek word 'ginomai' which means to 'come to pass.' Jesus never intended to abolish or annul the Law. Jesus magnified and elaborated on the Old Testament laws [Jn 4:21](#). Paul also stated in [Ro 3:31](#) that our faith in God, does not nullify God's Laws. We must obey God's Commandments, with a humble and submissive heart and mind. God's free and undeserved gift of grace, includes the forgiveness of sins through the precious sacrifice of Jesus Christ [Ro 6:1-2](#). Salvation cannot be earned. But faith and repentance are crucial steps and pre-requisites for salvation. Therefore, Jesus bluntly stated 'Repent or Perish!' in [Lk 13:3-5](#). (Read Tracts - 'Who Through Faith ...' and 'Repent or Perish!'). We must turn away from sin; and turn to God with faithfulness and wholehearted obedience to His Commandments. Disobedience to God's commandments has produced defeat, failure, calamity, wasting disease, misery and death [Dt 28:15-68](#). Many professing Christian ministers preach that if we "just believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, then we will be saved!" Just preaching about Christ does not fulfill the proclamation of the gospel. The gospel that Jesus preached is about the soon-coming literal, supreme world-ruling Kingdom and government of God, that will soon be established, at Christ's return, and will rule all nations of the earth. It must be proclaimed throughout the world. In the Kingdom of God, the rulers will be spirit beings who will be born into the divine Family of God. God's Kingdom will subdue the nations of earth and rule them. Spirit-begotten Christians will be born of the Spirit of God, at the first resurrection, as firstfruits of salvation, at Christ's glorious and imminent return (Read Tract - 'Glorious And Imminent Return Of Jesus Christ!'). They are now in training and preparation to rule with and under Christ. Jesus stated that it is absolutely essential to believe the true Gospel to be saved [Mk 16:15-16](#). We are to train, teach and prepare other disciples for the Kingdom of God. We train them for the dual role of kings and priests [Rev 5:10](#). What are we to teach disciples? 1) How to walk and live by faith. 2) How to live by every word of God. 3) How to obey and effectively teach God's commandments. 4) Repentance. 5) Baptism. 6) The gospel "good news" of the Kingdom of God. 7) Powerful and effective prayer. 8) Power of fasting. 9) Deliverance - How to cast out demons. 10) How to praise and worship God. In [Mt 28:18-20](#), the divine commission to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God throughout the world, as a witness to all nations, is being fulfilled in very dramatic ways. Jesus said in [Jn 14:12](#), that those who believe in Him will do great works. Jesus preached the gospel to only a few