

MISSION & MEMBERSHIP

OUR MISSION: GC²

THE QUESTION

We've discussed the first and most important question: "Who are we?" We saw that we as a church are a mosaic where all are broken, all matter, and One gets the glory. Now, we move from the "who" question to the "what" question. The order is important to us, as we believe that you act out of your identity. In other words, what you do does not determine who you are, but who you are determines what you do. What is it that we do here at Mosaic? We answer this question with a simple little acronym, GC², which stands for the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22:34-40 (ESV)

It is always best to take our directions from Jesus. Here we find Him identifying the two most basic and important commandments for the people of God. The first commandment is to love God with all that we are. But, what does it mean to love God? A survey of the Scriptures will show a consistent theme: we love God by valuing what He values (1 John 4:21; John 14:15; John 21:15). We care about what God cares about. This includes knowledge of what God values, a heartfelt response to that knowledge, and an action in response.

Can you list some things that are valuable and important to God?

Are these valuable and important in your life? Where do you see evidence of that?

What would it look like to value these things more in your life?

The second commandment then clearly flows out of the first. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves. It is “like” the first in that it focuses on loving what God values. This command relates loving others to the way you care for yourself. It takes for granted that you do care for yourself.

In a healthy situation, what ways do people care for themselves?
What are our basic needs?

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Given that list, what would it look like to love others “as ourselves”?

THE GREAT COMMISSION

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

Jesus spoke these words near the end of His time on earth. They were His marching orders to the Church for after His ascension. Let’s take a look at the mission of the Church. There are four verbs in the Great Commission that drive everything. The first two, “go” and “make disciples,” give us the mission itself. The second two, “baptizing” and “teaching,” describe how we go about making disciples.

“Make disciples” is the main verb of the sentence, and it is a command. The main focus of our mission is to make disciples. But what is a disciple?

Give your definition of a disciple. Where does your definition come from?

Given what you said above, how would one go about making a disciple?

"Go" is a contributing verb that aids in our understanding of the mission. It gives some *umph* to the "make disciples" command. The idea is that we are not to be passive, waiting for people to come to us. Rather, we are to be active, going to where people are. We are not primarily a *come and see* church, but rather a *go and be* church.

What are ways you can be proactive about making disciples?

Do you have places where you regularly interact with non-believers? If not, what are some ideas for how that could happen?

The first mark of a disciple is a ***new identity***. Baptism is a symbolic act of that identity. It shows a commitment that you have made in your heart. Baptism first and foremost identifies us with Jesus. Romans 6:4 says that we were buried with Christ in baptism and raised with Christ to new life. It visually declares that we identify with Jesus and submit to His lordship over our lives. Baptism also identifies us with God's people, His Church. It is the only initiation rite for the Church. Baptism is for believers and is done once to identify them with Christ and His Church. Because this baptism is in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the baptism must be personal and related to the true, trinitarian God of the Bible.

Since baptism is the sign of conversion and identity, this means that bringing people into the family of God is a part of making disciples. Often we say that evangelism is sharing our faith with "not-yet" believers and discipleship is helping "already" believers grow in Christ. Though this distinction may have its place, the commission includes the entire process of making a disciple, beginning with bringing people into faith and into the Church.

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The second mark of a disciple is **new ways**. We teach disciples to obey all that Jesus commanded. Conversion is not the end of the race. Paul said that he labored to present every person complete in Christ (Col 1:28). Making disciples means continuing to help others grow up in every area of their lives. This is more than just passing on information; this requires Gospel transformation. Jesus does not merely want people to know about Him; He wants people to obey and follow Him. However, this is not a legalism that makes our faith about following the rules. Rather, Jesus continually taught that mere obedience to rules was not enough. God wants our hearts. God wants every part of us offered up to Him as a sacrifice of worship, and this leads to Him transforming us into people who know and follow His will (Rom 12:1-2).

Are you continuing to grow as a disciple of Jesus? What areas of your life still need to be transformed by the Gospel of Jesus?

How can you help others to grow in their walk with and obedience to Jesus? How can you practically get life-on-life time with other people in the daily rhythms of your life?

There is also a circular element to this part of the commission. The commission is part of what Jesus commands: make disciples. To teach people to follow Jesus is to teach people to make disciples. We call this process reproducing reproducers. This was Jesus’ strategy. He did not focus on converting as many people as possible. He focused on equipping a few followers who could entrust this Gospel to faithful men and women who could then pass it on to others (2 Tim. 2:2). We do not want to merely reproduce ourselves; we want to reproduce Christ in others. We are giving people the Gospel, the Good News about Jesus.

We have found that the discipleship process requires three key components. The first is TRUTH. Biblical Truth is essential to discipleship (John 8:32). This Truth travels best on the road of RELATIONSHIP. Because of the Great Commandment, we cannot make disciples without loving one another (1 Thess 2:8). In the context of relationship there must be ACCOUNTABILITY. Discipleship urges us to live a life worthy of our calling (Prov 27:17). If any of these three is lacking, the discipleship process is deficient. Truth and relationship without accountability looks like a country club. Truth and accountability without relationship can be legalism or abuse. Accountability and relationship without truth is a cult. However, when all three come together, we have the components of a healthy disciple-making process.

One final thing to note is the three uses of “all” in the Commission. They give us the scope and power of the Commission.

All Authority

Jesus begins by claiming that He has all authority in Heaven and on Earth. The “therefore” in verse 19 tells us that the Commission is connected to His authority. Let’s think about three questions.

What does it mean for your life that Jesus has all authority in Heaven and on Earth (think about both Heaven and Earth)?

How does Jesus’ authority give us the reason to follow the Great Commission?

How does Jesus' authority give us the confidence to follow the Commission?

All Nations

This mission is a global mission because our God is God of the whole world. We should never be so narrow in our focus on our local context that we miss God's global purposes. Rather, we should see our local setting as a part of God's larger world. The root reason for all mission is that "God so loved the world" (John 3:16). Mosaic has several ways to plug into cross-cultural mission work beyond Northwest Arkansas.

How will you play a part in God's global purpose to reach all nations?

All Time

The Great Commission does not end with a command, but with a promise. Jesus is always with His people sent to accomplish His mission. This is a promise of great comfort. Jesus will do the work in our hearts and prepare us to accomplish the mission. We cannot do this on our own. It takes total dependence on Jesus and the Holy Spirit in our lives. In the book of Acts we find that the disciples were not allowed to start carrying out the mission until they had received the Spirit. The Great Commission is not just a command to do; it is a call to be. We are called to be "sent ones." Jesus is at work in our lives making us into disciples who are to live sent on mission. That is why prayer is central to all mission. Close your time praying together for the mission of God to make disciples through you.

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THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP

Well, we made it to the end together! First, thank you for sharing the journey with us. We hope and pray that the Discover Mosaic experience has had a positive impact on you and your relationship with Christ. Second, let's talk about what probably prompted you to join Discover Mosaic in the first place – "How do I become a member of Mosaic?"

It may feel to you like we don't make a big deal out of formal membership. So, you may be saying, **"Why should I become a member of Mosaic?"** The primary reason would be ownership. To commit to membership is to say, *"I'm in. The ministry of Mosaic is now also MY ministry. This is the group of followers of Christ that I will attach myself to and love and support."* In some ways, it is like the difference between a group of people who live in the same house and a family. Membership is like becoming a part of the family. This lesson will look at what it means to be a member of Mosaic through an overview of our Membership Covenant. Then we will look at the process of how you become a member of Mosaic.

What does it mean to be a member of Mosaic? Depending on your background or experience, membership at Mosaic may mean something very different than what you are used to. At Mosaic, we have a "covenant membership," which simply means that our members commit to one another to keep certain promises. Those promises are spelled out in our Membership Covenant, which is included with our membership papers. As you read these promises, remember this statement: "It's not what Mosaic wants FROM you; it's what we want FOR you." Think about what it would be like to be a part of a group of people who are all striving to be the kind of person described by this covenant. Let's take a look at five promises:

1. **To be a person who is committed to growing and maturing in my relationship with Jesus.** The goal here is not perfection, but consistent progress. We don't measure ourselves by one another or even by some unattainable standard of maturity. The Bible tells us that one day, Christ will make us fully mature and perfect in eternity. But until then, we seek to grow closer to and more like Jesus each day.

2. **To live a life of integrity.** A great, simple definition of personal integrity is “being what you say you are and doing what you say you’ll do.” The root of the word integrity carries the idea of wholeness or being complete. The most powerful part of our witness as followers of Christ is how we live before others. Jesus says to “let your light shine before others” and Paul tells us that he lived a disciplined and controlled life “lest after preaching to others, I myself should be disqualified.” The point is that if our words and our works don’t line up, people will see and our witness will be diminished.
3. **To serve together in the Body.** While the Church is made of individual followers of Christ, no one person is “The Church.” The New Testament word for church is “ekklesia” which means “an assembly or group that has been called together.” The very word pictures for us a group of people who are connected and together.

One of the pictures used to describe the church is the family of God. As a family, we are committed to serving and caring for one another. The New Testament letters to the churches are filled with “one another” statements encouraging and instructing us to relate to one another as a good family would. We love one another, we encourage one another, we bear one another’s burdens, we share with one another to meet each other’s needs, we challenge one another, and we spur one another on to good works.

But we are not just connected so we can serve one another; we are called together to carry out God’s mission of proclaiming His Name to the world. Together, we serve our communities to bring light to the dark places, to bring life where there is death, and to bring hope where none is found. For this reason, we join our resources so that this can happen in communities all over the world.

4. **To follow the spiritual leadership in the Body.** Hebrews 13:17 says, “Obey your leaders and submit to them for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account.” God places people in leadership roles over us for the good and protection of our souls. These leaders don’t control our lives, but they do provide spiritual direction for us to follow. One of the blessings of being a part of a church is that we are given a spiritual “covering” from our leaders who lovingly pray for us, teach us, counsel us, and guide us as those who will one day stand before God and give an accounting of their leadership and of our following. When we have that kind of leadership, we can gladly submit and follow them.

5. **To live generously.** Generosity is one of the most prominent character traits of our Heavenly Father. From the beginning of time, God has been the great Giver. He created a world and gave it to mankind. He has provided for His children throughout history. And He has given us the greatest expression of generosity ever by giving us His Son, Jesus, as our Savior. So when we live generously, we are demonstrating the character of God. As part of the family, we share the cost of being a family by supporting the ministry of Mosaic. But we also look for other ways to live generously by supporting other ministries, giving to the poor, supporting missions, and by sharing with those in the Body that have needs.

There are other points in the Membership Covenant, but these sum up what kind of people we are trying to be together. And as any covenant involves at least two sides, you know that as you promise these things, you are becoming a part of a group of people who have also promised these things as well. Again, what would it be like to be a part of a group of people who are all striving to live by these values?

So what is next? If you have prayerfully determined that God wants you to be a part of the Mosaic Body, then you need to fill out the Membership Form on page 55 for membership, sign the Membership Covenant and give them, along with your written testimony, to your Discover Shepherds. They will get these to a Community Pastor who will read through them and see if there needs to be any further conversation. Then, you will be added to our membership and announced in a Worship Service as a new member.

We also encourage you to look over the areas/opportunities to serve in Mosaic to see where and how God wants you to engage. As you find a place to bring your unique blend of gifts, talents, and passions and add them to those of others, the ministry will be more effective. You will be blessed, and God will be glorified.

Finally, thank you again for trusting us enough to let us be a part of your life. We look forward to walking with you and serving our dear Savior, Jesus Christ, together.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS

Please use this space to write down any questions you have that we haven't answered yet. At the end of this session, you will be given time to ask these questions.

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