

**Our commission**  
**Matthew 28:16-20**  
**By Amanda Nevin**

Our passage is known as the great commission, or commandment to the church. This is the commandment for all of us given from Christ that we are called to live out each day and everyday.

Dale Brunner- Theologian/scholar writes it like this:

**Slide 1:** “So Move Out and disciple all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you and remember I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**Slide 2:** Four Commandments: Go/Move Out, Disciple, Baptize and Teach

This is what the church is supposed to be engaged with, going out from these walls, discipling people in the name of Christ, baptizing them and then teaching

**Slide 3: Go/Move Out**

- Jesus tells us first and foremost that he has all authority under heaven and earth- power over the whole world! This is our confidence and hope
- We are not our own, Christ is with us, Christ is for us who can be against us?
- It is also a reminder that it is ALL of our responsibilities to go, to move into the WHOLE world
- Our response then is to trust that Christ is in command, he has all power under heaven and then to go
  - To our schools
  - Our places of work
  - Our neighborhoods
  - Our friends and family
  - To live in such a way as to represent Christ daily- to run our thoughts, actions, lives through Jesus and his word and to trust that HE is still in control and it is THROUGH him that we can go.

**Slide 4: Disciple**

- Make students of
- Educate
- Mentor
- An educational process like confirmation
- To literally connect a person closely with Jesus
- The idea of disciple making is to work with people over a period of time in a simple educational process of teaching and instructions about Jesus but not just teaching them about Jesus, it is helping a person grow in faith, wisdom and understanding, it is helping them change from the inside out so that they can be more like Christ
- Christ is the one who does the big work of converting people, bringing people to repentance we are called though to teach someone in such a way that they are brought closely to the person of Jesus, so they can have encounter with the living Christ and their lives can be changed and thus then modeled after Christ himself and his teachings.

All NATIONS- we are to GO OUT, move into all nations- GOD has a world vision and so are we. We are supposed to have the longing in our own hearts to see a universal mission spread to all of God's creation, a renewal of churches and international conversion of people- for JESUS! Disciplining all people in the name of Jesus stands at the heart of the church's mandate- our commission, Christ's commandment to GO!

**Slide 5:**

**Baptize in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment to Baptize

**Slide 6:**

**Baptism**

- In our traditions when those who are desiring baptism either for themselves or their children, they will make vows.

**VOWS:**

- Profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
- Declare their intention to be part of the church life, to actively participate in worship/mission
- Declare their intention to provide for the Christian nurture of their child (infant baptism)

**Congregation Promises:**

- Profess faith in Jesus Christ through the Apostles Creed
- Voice its support of those being baptized
- Express willingness to take responsibility for the nurture of those baptize

**Slide 7:**

**Questions to the Congregation:**

“Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture (person's name) by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church?”

**Slide 8: Question # 2 Or** Will you, the people of God, promise to build a community of faith and love so that (name here) may grow in faith to confess Jesus Christ as his/her Lord and Savior?

**Slide 9:**

Why Baptism? It is Christendom's formal and effective ceremony of a person's officially becoming a child of God. We are given God in baptism and are now obligated to live as one so privileged, to respond to this good news with the giving of our hearts and lives to Christ.”

- This is a symbol of our faith, our commitment our hope, it is symbol of our joining with other believers and our joining with the triune God- Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- In baptism we become heirs to God's kingdom (the Father); Siblings of the Son (Jesus Christ) and our lives come under new management (the inner workings of the holy Spirit)
- We join the greater church and are incorporated into God's holy family
- It is not just a symbol it is a means of grace.

**Slide 10: 4<sup>th</sup> commandment: teaching**

Teaching, disciple making baptizing require time

- This is the first time Jesus applies the very “teaching “ to the work of his disciples, before he did all the teaching
- All three, teaching, disciple making and baptizing are slow words, corporate works they take time, there isn't instant gratification and sometime we lose interest because we don't see the fruits of our labors.
  - Sunday School teachers for example do a lot of work for the early years in a child's life and will see glimpses of their hard work here and there but they may never know the pay off for being the teacher and how that time spent with children prepares a child for a life of ministry, or mission work, or how it impacts that person's life as a doctor or finance person or a teacher themselves.
  - Work with people carefully
  - Tend to their soul needs
  - Bring them along gently
  - Encourage, strengthening, through fellowship, Bible studies, small groups, class studies, personal reflection and study
  - People now more than ever need to know God's word.
  - The world knows what it thinks it knows but it is a shadow of the truth, often there are sayings that we think are in the bible like
    - God will only give you as much as you can handle- that aren't actually in the Bible

**Slide 11: We disciple and teach by.....**

- Living among people,
- Talking with people
- Getting to know them
- Inquiring about them
- Sharing stories, praying for them being hospitable, taking time!!!!

**Slide 12: Who does this??????**

**Slide 13: You and ME!**

**Slide 14: Our baptism Promise**

- No matter what order happens in a persons life like:
  - Baptizing, teaching then disciple making
  - Or disciple making, teaching, baptizing
  - In all of these we are called to do it individually and collectively
  - This is not the work of just Kent and I, or Jeff, or Victoria, or the Sunday School teachers
  - It is a commitment we make together
  - Confirmation.... What are you doing to support them, each other.

- How are you involved in building the community of faith, nurturing those who have been baptized, encouraging those to grow in faith, follow Christ, how are you growing in faith???

**Slide 15: How are you showing others the love of Christ?**

- By your words?
- Your deeds?
- Your love
- Your prayers?
- This is the work of the whole church to support and get involved with action/time/teaching/praying for things like
  - SEEkers, Wired, JAMAA, LOG (love of God weekend); confirmation, Sunday School, Small Groups, Mission work, friendships and mentoring of others, prayer
- How are you helping to connect new members into the life of the church?
- How are you helping our children be connected to Christ?

Go/Move Out and be the hands and feet of Christ, baptizing people in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, disciple making and teaching them. Pray for the church till one day every knee will bow and tongue confess that Christ is LORD!