

Formed for Mission

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

“The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mk. 12:29–31).

Jesus is the only one who has ever loved God with _____ of his heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Jesus is the only one who has ever loved people _____.

The Great Commandment has been called the _____ of spiritual formation.

Spiritual formation is “a process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others.”

God’s will for us is our sanctification. (1 Thess. 4:3) Richard Foster said, “The goal of the Christian life could be summarized as our being formed, conformed, and transformed into the image of Christ.”

Author Kenneth Boa defined spiritual formation as the lifelong process of becoming in our character and actions the new creations we already are in Christ. (2 Cor. 5:17); it is the working out of what God has already worked in us. (Phil. 2:12–13)”

THE GREAT COMMISSION

The Great Commission is the _____ of discipleship. Discipleship can be defined as “following Jesus and teaching others to do the same.”

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.” (Mt. 28:18–20)

The primary command in the Great Commission is “_____.”

The Great Commission is fulfilled primarily through:

Going –

Telling -

Baptizing -

Training -

HOW ARE THE GREAT COMMANDMENT AND GREAT COMMISSION RELATED?

In God's grand design, the Great Commandment and the Great Commission are _____, fueling one another.

The Great Commandment is a _____ commandment.

The Great Commission is a _____ commission.

The Great Commandment facilitates conformity to the image of Christ; to be conformed into the image of Christ is to be conformed into a disciple-maker for the sake of others.

Theology, at its best, should be understood and practiced as "whole person formation for mission." Robert Mulholland Jr. explains, "No healthy spiritual formation is possible apart from mission with Christ. Similarly, no transformative mission with Christ is possible apart from formation in Christ."

If that's true, we have to ask ourselves these questions:

- Am I striving to love God with *all* that I am? And, am I being transformed into the image of Christ as a result?
- Am I engaged in mission and discipleship?

ABIDE IN CHRIST

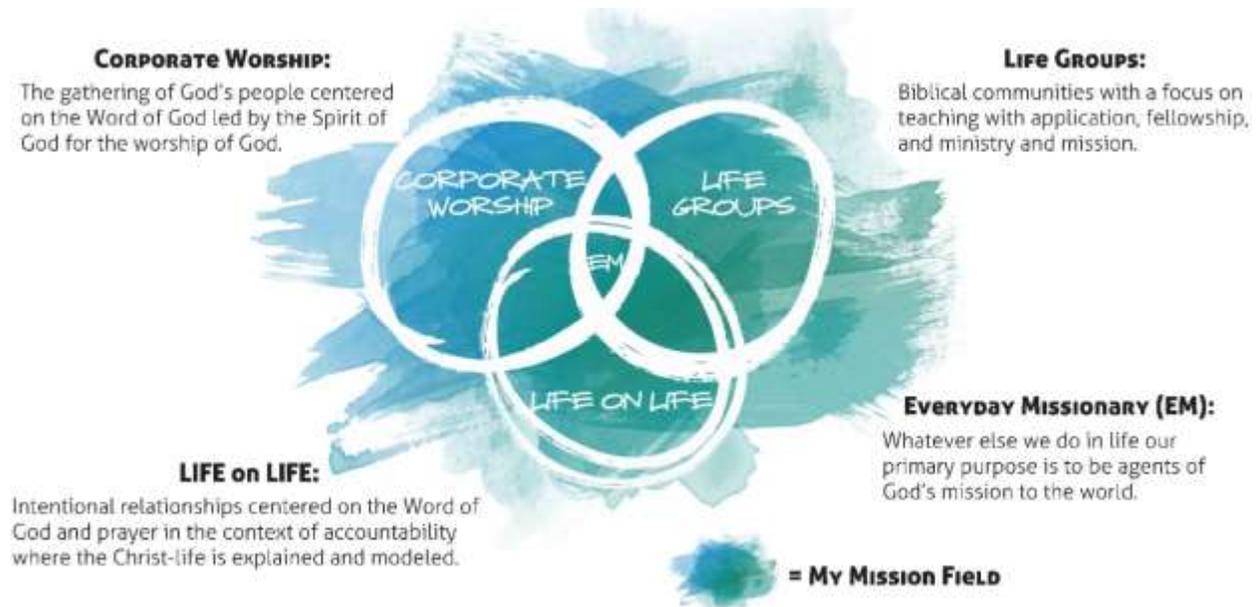
The Christian life is not ultimately about doing things *for* Jesus; it's about abiding *in* Jesus. Jesus explains the essence of the Christian life in John 15:

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much

fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (Jn. 15:4–11)

We can do all things through Christ and nothing meaningful without him. (Phil. 4:13; Jn. 15:5) The Great Commandment and the Great Commission converge as we abide in Christ. As we abide in Christ, we are able to increasingly live our lives as if Jesus were living through us, and that's just it; Jesus is living through us! (Gal. 2:20)

CALVARY'S DISCIPLE-MAKING STRATEGY



It's an awesome privilege to participate with Jesus to carry out the mission of God! The Great Commission is our "_____."

Jesus's last recorded words on earth are, "I am with you always." (Mt. 28:20) His last recorded words in the Bible are, "I am coming soon." (Rev. 22:20) The risen and returning Lord who was, and who is to come, is with the church now! Jesus is Immanuel, God with us. The church is never left to do the work of God without the power of God.