



Obeying the Great Commission in times of Pandemic

One of the reasons the church is not stronger is because our Lord's last command to make disciples is so consistently neglected. At our last GFL men's discipleship gathering, we discussed in a very pointed way: "Is the COVID pandemic a *catalyst*, or a *copout* for fulfilling the great commission?" The men agreed that the pandemic is a *catalyst* for disciple-making because during uncertain times true believers will hunger to draw near to Christ and to one another.

At GFL we find it incredibly useful to regularly cast the vision for disciple-making. For, we have discovered that even the men who are faithful to our fellowship have many questions about disciple-making. During our latest men's equipping meeting, we provided an outline and summary of biblical discipleship in the following way: **1) The foundation for the believer's Christian walk and growth is the great guilt exchange that took place at Calvary.**

The glorious benefits of Christ bearing our sin is that the believer is united to Christ and now possesses "everything pertaining life and godliness" (2 Pet 1:3). The guilt exchange Christ accomplished is the source of the believers status before God as *justified, forgiven, adopted, and accepted in the Beloved*. All Christian growth therefore, must be built upon these gospel realities (Acts 20:32).



Missionary friend of Jay's is discipling his two sons.



Some of the men in our disciple-making group.

2) The second aspect of discipleship emphasizes the fact that the believer is not done with the cross once he begins the Christian life.

"For, the cross is a boundless resource for holiness and for victory over sin. Here is where personal mentors and teachers are invaluable; for the sanctifying doctrine of co-crucifixion is one of the least understood doctrines in the Bible. Yet, it is central to a believer's progress in sanctification."

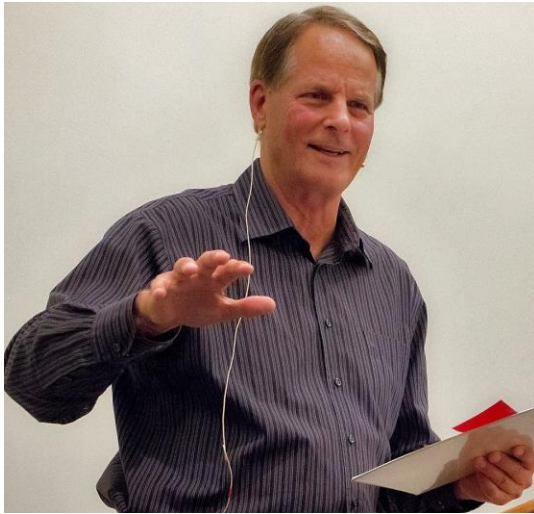
3) In order for these transforming truths of grace and the cross to be consistently worked into the behavior of the believer, discipleship is necessary.

"In the Great Commission our Lord defines a disciple as a believer who is systematically being taught to obey Christ's commands."

That means the disciple will welcome accountability, transparency, and nurture. In addition, within these relationships of life-on-life soul care, a true disciple of Christ will be open to having his obedience to God's Word guided, and even monitored by a more mature caring brother.

New Testament Scripture knows no pattern for maturity that depends primarily on private piety. Growing up into Christ is a group effort, a corporate endeavor (Eph 4:13-16). In fact, all of our ministries should be able to show how they are connected to the Great Commission (Mt 28:18-20). For, the life of the body of Christ exists to nurture disciples.

“And, all of our efforts to bring disciples to maturity so that they might disciple others is how we build with Christ.”



Men eager to grow are an example to other men.

At GFL we are actively training Christ-followers to be disciple-makers. The blessed result is that the local church can become a disciple-making community. If you'd like **Jay** to present a seminar on **Evangelism, Discipleship, or Christian Worldview** at your church or school, please contact him at jaywegter@gmail.com

Please pray for:

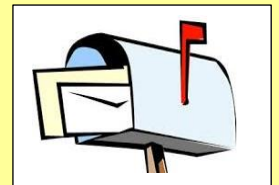
- Please pray for my wife, Michele. We discovered in December that her breast cancer has metastasized to her spine. We are seeking a miracle and are looking into alternative treatments. Cards and donations can be sent to 3675 Marlesta Dr, San Diego, CA 92111
- Please pray that Jay's writing of Biblical Worldview curriculum would powerfully equip high school students to be able to resist the rising tide of apostasy.

Our mission at GFL is to help equip individuals and churches to more fully embrace The Great Commission. The training we offer in evangelism and discipleship is 'hands-on' equipping. Instead of training in theory alone, we demonstrate how these Biblical commands can immediately be put to use.

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We are grateful for your support in prayer and gifts to help fulfill our mission to raise up disciple-makers. www.gospelforlife.org

Jay, Michele and the GFL Team