

HOW WE DO MISSION TOGETHER

EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP

CLASS 5

The Great Commission

By example in the book of Acts and by command in places like Matthew 28:18–20, Jesus gives the clear message that the church is to be a church on a mission:

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matt 28:18–20)

Our mission is that wherever we are and whatever vocations (callings) we have, we’re also to be ***making disciples*** as much as we’re able.

Making disciples is evangelistic (“baptizing them”) and also involves a whole life of discipleship (“teaching to observe all that I have commanded you”). It’s about spiritual growth that begins at conversion and, Lord willing, continues till we see Jesus face to face (Eph 4:12–13; 1 John 3:2).

With such a mission, praise God we don’t ever do it alone! The Christ of all authority (v. 18) is also the Christ who promises to be with us throughout every moment of every day until “the end of the age” (v. 20).

But...what does it look like for us to be involved in this mission together at CFC? What are we doing about it?

We Love Our Neighbors and Minister to those in Need (Luke 10:25–37)

Jesus once explained to a self-righteous lawyer what it means to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:25–37). The lawyer was certainly expecting a loop-hole so he could come out looking good. Jesus shattered his expectations.

Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan. In his parable the one and only person who saw the man in need and “had compassion” (v. 33) and “showed him mercy” (v. 37) was a Samaritan. The fact Jesus chose a Samaritan to be the hero and not the priest or the Levite was shocking to his audience, for Samaritans were despised and shunned by Jews at the time. Jesus was saying you can’t hide behind your religious pride when someone is in need. They need your compassion and mercy still.

At Cornerstone we strive to serve those in need as we have opportunity. Sometimes this is in the flow of our lives and within our sphere of relationships. But sometimes it’s through our involvement in ministries like:

- *Agua Viva Children’s Home – A ministry in Guatemala dedicated to the education, discipleship, and rehabilitation of Guatemala’s children, especially those from challenging home situations.*
- *Safe Families for Children – This ministry works with families in crisis to offer short-term care to get families back to a place of independence and strength.*

- *Hand of Hope* – This ministry works with women facing a crisis pregnancy to offer practical, spiritual, and emotional help. Its homes in Fuquay-Varina and Raleigh have served thousands of women and their babies over the years.

We Share Christ As We're Able (Col 4:5–6; 1 Peter 3:15–16).

Even though we might not think of ourselves as an “evangelist” or a “missionary,” there’s a sense in which we are both of these. The calling to love others as the Good Samaritan means we’ll care about the needs of others. And the greatest need everyone has is spiritual: *Where are they in their relationship with Jesus? Is he Savior and Lord to them or nothing at all?* The consequences of this are massive and eternal.

And then there are places where we’re more directly called to be engaged in evangelizing others as we’re able:

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. (Col 4:5–6)

15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. (1 Pet 3:15–16)

Passages like these remind us that our lives and words matter in bringing Jesus to others.

And Peter even calls us to “always be prepared to make a defense” for “the hope that is in you.” “Defense” here is from the Greek, *apologia*, from which we get “apologetics.” “Apologetics” is the study of giving a defense of the faith, providing reasoned arguments for the faith we have. God often uses these conversations as he brings people to himself.

Part of our mission at Cornerstone is to equip our members to share Christ faithfully and clearly and effectively.

So, when you have the opportunity, be bold and share Christ with someone.

We Approach our Jobs, Families, and All of Life—All Our Vocations (Callings) in Missional Ways

Cornerstone is a “missional” church. We’re not just on a “mission,” but we’re “missional.” Being “missional” obviously connects to mission, God’s mission in particular. His mission is seeking and saving the lost (Luke 19:10), and he is using the church to do that (Matt 28:18–20)—all for the glory of his great name (Eph 3:10, 22). To be missional is certainly to be evangelistic—as individuals and as a church.

But being missional also includes seeing our vocations—i.e., all the various callings God has given to us—as vehicles to model the gospel and win others to Jesus. This is how we can “adorn the doctrine of God our Savior” and make it appealing and understandable to the world around us (Tit 2:10).

Thus, we want our members to think of themselves as:

- *Missional mothers*
- *Missional computer programmers*
- *Missional college students*
- *Missional mechanics*
- *Missional husbands and wives*
- *Missional citizens*

- *Missional salesman and women*
- *Missional...in whatever callings we currently have.*

We Partner with Trinity Fellowship Churches

The Great Commission is global. It's far beyond what any single Christian or church can accomplish. To happen it will take partnerships between churches to multiply our efforts.

At Cornerstone we have different partnerships to help us do this. Most important is our partnership with Trinity Fellowship Churches, which enables us to work with other churches to see church plants in the US.

Our partnership with TFC is about more than church planting, but the resources and gifting in TFC to plant in the US is one of the reasons we're excited to link arms with these churches.

We Partner with Ministries Dedicated to International Missions

But for us to make an impact *globally* we have also partnered with ministries engaged already in global mission work. This includes ministries like:

- *Trans World Radio – A ministry dedicated to using technology to get the gospel into areas closed to or inaccessible to missionaries. For decades this has involved radio, but it now involves a variety of digital efforts.*
- *Acts 29 Latin America – Acts 29 is based in the US, but it's church planting reach into Latin America and Europe makes it a good partnership for Cornerstone. Further, its values are closely aligned with ours, so the churches they plant are ones we're excited to support.*
- *Agua Viva – We mentioned them earlier, but their ministry in Guatemala is inspiring and fruitful.*

What Should You Do Now?

Okay, you've gotten through the membership class, prayed, considered, and now you'd like to join Cornerstone. What now?

1. Get involved in one of our **home groups**, if you haven't already.
2. Fill out the **Membership Questionnaire** (we'll send it to you).
3. Schedule your **baptism**, if you haven't been baptized as a believer. This can be on a Sunday morning or a more private event.
4. Think about areas where you'd like to **serve**.
5. Attend your **membership interview**. Once you turn in your Membership Questionnaire, we'll be in touch about your membership interview with one of the pastors. These are times to ask questions, get to know us, and confirm joining Cornerstone is right for you. Let the pastor know where you'd like to serve.

Thank You

We appreciate you taking these weeks to work through this material. We hope it's served you and helped you discern the will of God for where to make your church home. We hope it's with us! But if it isn't, we pray God's grace, mercy, and peace on you and your family.