
KEEPING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING.

Q: What is the main thing for the church?

A: Getting the gospel to every people group on the planet, baptizing them when they become followers of Christ, then teaching them to do the same.

Fundamentals of keeping the main thing the main thing:

- **Confidence** that there is not a square inch in heaven or on earth that Jesus Christ does not hold all authority over – Matthew 29:16-18

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

- The disciples went where Jesus told them: Blessings, beauty, guilt-less pleasure, purpose, and encouragement are always found in the path of obedience to Jesus's commands.
- Can you imagine how it must have felt when the disciples fully realized Jesus hadn't left or failed them?

- **Commitment** to Jesus Christ's command to make disciples of every people group on the planet – Matthew 28:19-20

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.

How do we make disciples?

- **Going** "as you are going/while you are going" – 28:19
 - Assumes a Christ-centered trajectory for your life.
 - We cannot be filled with the love of God if we are unmoved by those in spiritual darkness.
- Baptizing by **immersion**: Visually communicates the Gospel – 28:19
- **Teaching** and modeling obedience to Jesus Christ's teachings – 28:20
- Confidence in Jesus Christ's **promise** to never abandon his followers – 28:20

3 kinds of Christians on missions and making disciples:

1. The Goers
2. The Senders
3. The Disobedient¹

¹ John Piper, "Goers, Senders and Disobedient," *Desiring God*, June 24, 2011, <http://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/goers-senders-and-the-disobedient>