

Rediscover Church • Week 9 • How Do We Love Outsiders?

1) What is a church for? How would you describe or articulate the mission of the church, in your own words?

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- Matthew 28:18-20

2) Think about these two concepts found in Jesus' "Great Commission": **Evangelism & Discipleship**. Or you could say, **Mission & Formation**. Which phrases in those three verses point to evangelism/mission, and which parts point to discipleship/formation? How would you describe the connection between the two?

3) Name some of the unique obstacles and difficulties we face today when we engage in Jesus' mission to "go make disciples of all nations" ... What things might make it harder than in past generations? Are there any ways that we could say it's easier now?

4) What do you think are some key strategies and approaches to utilize in mission and evangelism today? Are there any vital perspectives or principles you've learned?

5) How is the idea of being a **witness** important in our understanding of mission / evangelism? (If the church is meant to be the living embodiment of a people shaped by the good news message of Jesus...?!) And what about the concept of being an **ambassador** – why might that be important? (If the church is an embassy of heaven...?!)

6) How much is our mission from Christ to be characterized by **doing good deeds**, and loving acts of mercy or kindness? How much should it involve **sharing the good news**, speaking the gospel message? How are these two things meant to work together?

7) 1 Peter 3:15 exhorts us to "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." These days, what might cause someone to ask us about our hope in Christ? How might the exercise of preparing and writing down our testimony help us to be ready to share our faith when opportunities arise?

Prayer Prompts

- *Let's get proactive – think of 3-5 people in your sphere of influence and relationships who are not yet followers of Jesus. Think of family members, people at work/school, neighbors and people you see frequently. Make a list and pray for them.*
- *Ask the Lord to increase your own sensitivity to the Spirit's moving, especially in seeing opportunities for witness and discipleship. Pray for an increase in gospel boldness!*