

Treasuring God's Word Missions Emphasis 2021

Expanding the Kingdom
of God Old School
September 19, 2021

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." - Genesis 1:28

I. Mission Strategy & Engine of Disciple-making: The Family

- When we think of missions, we naturally point to the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. But is this the first commission given to mankind?
- God's commission to mankind in Genesis 1:28 "be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth" anticipates the mission call—family is the vehicle.
- Goal of Genesis 1:28; Isaiah 11:19—the knowledge of God would cover the whole earth.
- Knowledge (Hebrew: Yawdah) = intimate understanding/experiential knowledge
- Is the Creation Mandate still in force? Yes, it continues after the Fall of Man (Genesis 9:1-10).
- Man's response was rebellion, to gather himself, leading to the urbanization in Genesis 11 where we see the tower of Babel. God spreads mankind throughout the earth but it does not yet fulfill Genesis 1:28 mandate.
- Since then, we have seen how the people of God (O.T. Israel, Isaiah 49:6) (N.T. Church, Eph. 2:19-22) are called as the family of God to be a witness to all generations and nations.
- Once we receive Christ as Savior, we are adopted into God's family as His children and the Heirs of His inheritance (Romans 8:14-17). What is part of His inheritance? Psalm 2:8—the nations and the ends of the earth.
- We are called to testify to all peoples, the truth of who God is and His work in our lives that overcomes Satan, sin and death (Mark 16:15; Revelation 12:10-11).
- The engine of the global spread of God's Kingdom is disciple-making. The time-tested vehicle for this is the family—spreading faith by generations.

II. Family as a Vehicle for Disciple-making (continued)

- Jesus desires us to "bear fruit" (John 15:1-17). Fruitfulness can be both biological children of faith as well as having "spiritual" children we adopt into our families.
- Family is critical for how faith is passed on to the next generation. Psalm 78 is a blueprint.
- Where do we see our spiritual enemy spending so much time attacking?
- What happens if we don't reach the next generation? We see the decline of the church in places like Europe, Northeast and Northwestern USA, etc.
- How do we make disciples in our families or among our close friends?
 - Live out a faith that not only knows about God, but experiences God's power (renew our mind—Rom. 12:2; fruit of the Spirit—Gal. 5:22-23; gifts of the Spirit 1 Cor. 12).
 - Early Christians exemplified transformed lives (Acts 4:13).
 - Raise children to be disciple-makers with critical life skills such as:
 - Spiritual disciplines (Bible study and memorization, prayer and fasting, personal praise and worship, accountability and confession, giving and serving, daily time with God, etc.)
 - Dependence upon God (John 15:1-11)
 - Discerning God's leading in their lives
 - Maintaining a hunger after God
 - Passing on their faith to others
 - Raising up "spiritually adopted" sons and daughters/friends (e.g. Paul and Timothy)
 - Open your home to others—hospitality
 - Meet needs of those in your community
 - Live life with coworkers—work together

KNOW: Family disciple-making (either biological or spiritual children) is critical to the spread of the Gospel globally and to pass on our faith to the next generation.

DO: The best place to practice your faith is at home—let your children/friends see how you experience God daily. Open your homes to others who need to see God active in your life.