

The Great Commission Part 3 - 1 Peter 2:11-3:6; Titus 2:1-3:14 - 2014-01-11

Call to Worship: 1 Samuel 12:24

Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 12:10-14 [seems to read better in ESV than NKJV]

Sermon: "The Great Commission Part 3" 1 Peter 2:11-3:6; Titus 2:1-3:14

Benediction: Hebrews 12:28

## INTRODUCTION

Recall the progress we have made so far in understanding the Lord's Great Commission.

-The Lord Jesus has given His church the great commission, starting with the first part: "Go make disciples of all nations."

-We, in love toward the Savior who first loved us, and gave Himself up for us, are eager to obey His commandment. We also love our fellow men, sinners like ourselves, and we long for them to become disciples of Jesus Christ as we are.

-We do not know, however, just what each of us is to do in obedience to that command. What am I supposed to do this Tuesday to make sinners from all nations become disciples of Jesus Christ?

-We look to the apostles' letters to the churches, to see how they put that command to us as individual Christians, but we find nothing like that.

-We understand that "go make disciples of all nations" in another place the Lord Jesus says as, "repentance and forgiveness of sins shall be preached in [My] name to all nations," so we look to the apostles' letters again, to see how they put that command to us as individual Christians, but again we find nothing

-We understand that in the sermon on the mount, the Lord Jesus put the command to us in yet another way

Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. (15) Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. (16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

-When we look to the apostles' letters again, to see if they put that command to us as individuals, we find what we have been looking for: both Peter and Paul take this command of the Lord Jesus and expound it, explaining and commanding how each individual Christian should do his part to "go make disciples of all nations"---he should live such a life of good works that his conduct endorses the gospel message that is preached.

1 Peter 2:11-12 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, (12) having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

-By consulting the parallel passages in Peter's first letter, and in Paul's letter to Titus, we learn some general things about these "good works" we are to do, to endorse the gospel.

-The general nature of them: abstaining from the desires of the flesh

-The main idea of them: submit yourself to authority

- We saw that the good works of abstaining from the desires of the flesh in favor of submitting to authority are put to us in three headings
  - everyone submitting to the government
  - the servant submitting to his master
  - the wife submitting to her husband

In both of these passages from the Lord's apostles, Peter and Paul, there is more detail given as to how we live in submission to authority. So it seems to me profitable to take up those things today, so as to fill up our consciences with what we need to make good judgments in these areas.

**To obey the great commission as an individual Christian, learn from the scriptures what it is not to submit to the desires of the flesh, but to submit to God-given authority. Then live in those kind of good works, which is like putting your lamp up on its lampstand, so people can see by it. By that light of your good works, sinners may see the truth of the gospel message, may repent, may be forgiven their sins, and may become disciples of Jesus Christ.**

TEXT:

Today rather than reading the bible text up front, then expounding it, we'll read it in sections as we go along. The three headings are going to be the three classes of people addressed, of whom it is said specifically that their good works of submission to authority will serve to endorse the preached gospel.

I. How is everyone to submit to the government?

Titus 3:1-3 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, (2) to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. (3) For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

A. be subject *hupotasso*

B. obey

NOTE: This is somewhat complicated. Paul and Peter do not mean an unlimited obedience to every command of every corrupt government official!

-Peter and John to the sanhedrin

-Paul to the city council in Philippi

But the command is to obey. If you can, in good conscience, obey the commands of the government officials, you are to do it. The next phrase tells us in what manner to obey.

C. be ready for every good work

1. "every good work enjoined by the civil magistrate; and all right and lawful obedience that belongs to him, as giving to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, tribute, custom, fear, and honour to whom they are due; and which should be done **readily and cheerfully**"

D. speak evil of no one

1. Greek *blasphemeo* to defame; to rail against
2. 2 Peter 2:10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,
3. Jude 1:8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

E. be peaceable ESV: avoid quarreling

1. actually a negative word, "not fighting"
2. Henry: "A holy contending there is for matters good and important, and in a manner suitable and becoming, not with wrath nor injurious violence." "Christians must follow the things that are conducive to peace, and that in a peaceful, not a rough and boisterous and hurtful way, but as becomes the servants of God of peace and love"
3. There is a difference between being willing to fight and eager to fight. There is a time to kill; there is a time of war. Ecc 3 To refuse to fight when fighting is called for is not virtuous. But to want to fight when fighting is not called for is not virtuous; witness Peter cutting off the servant's ear

F. be gentle, considerate, kind

G. showing all humility to all men

1. the word here is the same as in the beatitudes, "meek"
2. Barnes: "patience in the reception of injuries with a belief that God will vindicate us . . . the opposite of sudden anger, of malice, of long-harbored vengeance"

II. How are servants to submit to their masters

Titus 2:9-10 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, (10) not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

- A. to be submissive *hupotasso*
- B. to please them well
- C. not to answer back
- D. not to pilfer
- E. to show good fidelity

III. How are wives to submit to their husbands

Titus 2:4-5 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) to be discreet, chaste [G53 *hagnos*], homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

- A. love their husbands
- B. love their children
- C. be discreet: self controlled
  1. Poole: *sofrone* the word signifies temperate, and imports an ability to govern all our affections and passions

- D. be chaste: saving all sexual expression for the marriage relationship only
- E. homemakers or keepers at home or workers at home
- F. be good: habitually action for the benefit of people, both body and soul
  - 1. greek *agathas*
- G. submissive to their own husbands
  - 1. *hupotasso*
- H. You might note here that the way the younger wives will be able to do this, ideally, is that the older women will train them to do it
  - 1. and older woman's opportunity to fulfill the great commission
  - 2. a younger woman's responsibility to be willing to be trained

The first part of the Lord's great commission for us as His church is "Go make disciples of all nations." But how am I as an individual supposed to obey that? Am I supposed to go off somewhere? Am I supposed to preach the gospel?

**To obey the great commission as an individual Christian, learn from the scriptures what it is not to submit to the desires of the flesh, but to submit to God-given authority. Then live in those kind of good works, which is like putting your lamp up on its lampstand, so people can see by it. By that light of your good works, sinners may see the truth of the gospel message, may repent, may be forgiven their sins, and may become disciples of Jesus Christ.**



We want to obey the Lord's great commission, starting with the first part: "Go make disciples of all nations."

-We look to the apostles' letters to the churches, to see how they put that command to us as individual Christians, but we find nothing like that.

-We understand that "make disciples" in another place the Lord Jesus says as, "preach repentance and forgiveness of sins," so we look to the apostles' letters again, to see how they put that command to us as individual Christians, but again we find nothing

-We understand that in the sermon on the mount, the Lord Jesus put the command to us in yet another way

Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. (15) Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. (16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

When we look to the apostles' letters again, we find what we have been looking for: both Peter and Paul take this command of the Lord Jesus and expound it, commanding how each individual Christians should do his part in making disciples of all nations---he should live such a life of good works that his conduct endorses the gospel message that is preached.

**Our Lord Jesus teaches us that the individual Christian makes disciples largely by living a life of good works, which good works endorse the gospel message when it is preached.**

Last time we saw, by consulting the parallel passages in Peter's first letter, and in Paul's letter to Titus, some general things about these "good works" we are to do, to endorse the gospel.

-We saw the general nature of them: abstaining from the desires of the flesh

-We saw the main idea of them: submit to authority

1 Peter 2:11-12 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, (12) having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

-We saw that the good works of abstaining from the desires of the flesh in favor of submitting to authority are put to us in three headings

- everyone submitting to the government
- the wife submitting to her husband
- the servant submitting to his master

Let us go one more step before calling this inquiry complete, one step more specific or detailed.

What specific things do the apostles refer to as “good works”?

1 Peter 2-3

EVERYONE

Remember this line of reasoning:

Submit to the laws of man, to the government

By doing good in this way, you will endorse the gospel that is preached

This is much of what you must do to make disciples of all nations

Let's get some more detail on how this is done

1 Peter 2:16-17 as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice [evil], but as bondservants of God. (17) Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

Titus 3:1-2 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, (2) to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

“be subject”

*hupotasso!* Arrange yourselves under.

“obey”

Greek *peitharcho* lit. To be persuaded by a ruler.

“be ready for every good work”

Gill: "every good work enjoined by the civil magistrate; and all right and lawful obedience that belongs to him, as giving to Caesar the things that are Caesar's,

tribute, custom, fear, and honour to whom they are due; and which should be done **readily and cheerfully**"

JRY:

We all deal with the car and trailer registration office.

We with teenage drivers deal with the driver's license office. Earl for CDL.

Dale deals with the inspectors.

We have to deal with the IRS.

Not that I can't oppose measures I think wrong through the proper channels!

"speak evil of no one"

Greek *blasphemeo* to defame; to rail against; to defame

Gill: "their names and characters, which are tender things, and ought to be gently touched"

2 Peter 2:10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,

Jude 1:8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

"be peaceable" KJV "no brawlers"

actually a negative word, "not fighting"

(different word from Titus 1:7, but same idea)

RWP: "non-fighters"

VWS: "not to be contentious"

JFB, Calvin: "not quarrelsome"

Calvin: "there are other ways of fighting than the sword or the fist"

Henry:

"A holy contending there is for matters good and important, and in a manner suitable and becoming, not with wrath nor injurious violence."

"Christians must follow the things that are conducive to peace, and that in a peaceful, not a rough and boisterous and hurtful way, but as becomes the servants of God of peace and love"

JRY: There is a difference between being willing to fight and eager to fight.

There is a time to kill; there is a time of war. Ecc 3

To refuse to fight when fighting is called for is not virtuous.

But to want to fight when fighting is not called for is not virtuous.

"be gentle" NIV "considerate" Calvin "kind"

Strong's: appropriate, that is, mild, gentle, moderate, patient

JFB, as Wesley: "toward those who attack us"

Calvin: "moderate many things by gentleness"

Henry:



"not taking words or actions in the worst sense; and for peace sometimes yielding somewhat of strict right"

"showing all humility to all men" KJV "meekness" ESV "courtesy"

This is the same word as in Matthew 5:5.

RWP: "fine blend of spiritual poise and strength"

VWS: Said of good horses with a good temperament.

Calvin: "bear with many things"

Barnes: "patience in the reception of injuries with a belief that God will vindicate us . . . the opposite of sudden anger, of malice, of long-harbored vengeance"

JFB: "the opposite of passionate severity"

Barnes:

Meekness produces peace. It is proof of true greatness of soul. It comes from a heart too great to be moved by little insults. It looks upon those who offer them with pity. He that is constantly ruffled; that suffers every little insult or injury to throw him off his guard and to raise a storm of passion within, is at the mercy of every mortal that chooses to disturb him.

Poole:

But *the meek*, who can be angry, but restrain their wrath in obedience to the will of God, and will not be angry unless they can be angry and not sin; nor will easily be provoked by others, but rather use soft words to pacify wrath, and give place to the passions of others; these are the blessed men

This is somewhat complicated.

Paul and Peter do not mean an unlimited obedience to every command of every corrupt government official!

-Peter and John to the sanhedrin

-Paul to the city council in Philippi

## WIVES

Beautify yourself with a gentle and quiet spirit

1 Peter 3:1-6 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, (2) when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. (3) Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel-- (4) rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. (5) For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, (6) as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

Titus 2:4-5 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) to be discreet, chaste [G53 *hagnos*], homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

discreet, self-controlled

Poole: *sofrone* the word signifies temperate, and imports an ability to govern all our affections and passions

chaste, or pure: saving all sexual expression for the marriage relationship only

homemakers

good: habitually acting for the benefit of people, both body and soul

submissive [*hupotasso*] to their own husbands

## SERVANTS

1 Peter 2:18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

Titus 2:9-10 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, (10) not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

Colossians 3:22-24 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, **fearing God**. (23) And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, (24) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.