

Shared Mission

Global Vision, Local Action

The Great Commission Unites Us in Purpose

Then Jesus came up and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
(Matthew 28:18-20)

Phil@UsefulEngines.com

<https://tinyurl.com/Call2Unity>

Shared Mission

Text: Matthew 28:18–20

Objective: The Great Commission unites us in purpose.

Key Themes: Global vision, local action.

Discussion:

How does mission unify the church?

Where are you currently on mission?

Application: Partner with others in outreach.

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Exegetical Insights

Authority (v.18): Jesus roots mission in His universal authority - “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.” The church is sent under Christ’s kingship, not its own agenda.

Command (v.19): “Go and make disciples of all nations” - movement outward, crossing cultural and geographic boundaries.

Practice (v.19–20): Baptizing (identity into the Triune God) and teaching (ongoing discipleship). Mission is not just evangelism, but holistic disciple-making.

Promise (v.20): “I am with you always.” Mission is sustained by Christ’s presence, not our power.

Shared Mission

How Mission Unifies the Church

Shared Purpose Overcomes Division - When believers are focused outward on Christ's mission, internal conflicts fade.

Php 1:27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ so that – whether I come and see you or whether I remain absent – I should hear that **you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, by contending side by side for the faith of the gospel...**

One Gospel for All People - Mission reminds us that no discrimination by culture, language, or class - Christ is the center of Kingdom Identity.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female – **for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.**

Partnership across Differences - Churches may vary in style or theology, but in mission they find common ground. *Unity grows when the church looks outward together rather than inward separately.*

Act 13:1-3 Now there were these prophets and teachers in the church at Antioch: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius the Cyrenian, Manaen (a close friend of Herod the tetrarch from childhood) and Saul. While they were serving the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, **“Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”** Then, after they had fasted and prayed and placed their hands on them, **they sent them off.**

How Mission Unifies the Church

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One gospel for all people: Mission reminds us that no culture, language, or class is central - Christ is the center (Galatians 3:26-28).

Gal 3:26-29 For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith. (27) For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female – **for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.** (29) And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise.

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placed their hands on them, **they sent them off.**

Discussion Prompts

How does mission unify the church?

Think of times when your congregation was most united—were you serving outwardly?

Where are you currently on mission?

Identify local circles of influence (family, workplace, neighborhood).

Who are you partnering with?

How can mission be shared instead of carried alone?

Shared Mission

Biblical Patterns

Antioch Church (Acts 13:1–3): Diverse leaders praying and fasting together, sending Paul and Barnabas.

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Paul's Networks (Romans 16): Dozens of co-workers, men and women, united in gospel work.

He also came to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple named Timothy was there, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but whose father was a Greek. (2) The brothers in Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. (3) Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was Greek. (4) *As they went through the towns, they passed on the decrees that had been decided on by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the Gentile believers to obey.* (5) So the churches were being strengthened in the faith and were increasing in number every day.

Philippians (Philippians 1:3–6): Paul rejoices in their “partnership in the gospel.”

I thank my God every time I remember you. (4) I always pray with joy in my every prayer for all of you (5) *because of your participation in the gospel* from the first day until now. (6) For I am sure of this very thing, that the one who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Biblical Patterns of Shared Mission

Antioch Church (Acts 13:1–3): Diverse leaders praying and fasting together, sending Paul and Barnabas.

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Paul's Networks (Romans 16): Dozens of co-workers, men and women, united in gospel work.

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[READ ENTIRE CHAPTER]

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Fruits of the Spirit evident:

- Love (sacrificial partnership),
- Faithfulness (long-term support),
- Joy (shared in suffering and victory)

Shared Mission

Practical Considerations

Local Action

- Encourage each member to see their workplace, neighborhood, or family as a mission field.
- Create small teams for acts of mercy, evangelism, or community service.

Global Vision

- Partner with missionaries or church planters abroad.
- Support translation, relief, and cross-cultural discipleship efforts.

Church Structures

- Align budgets and programs with mission priorities.
- Celebrate stories of mission regularly in worship gatherings.
- Pair seasoned believers with younger ones for mission mentoring.

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Discussion Prompts

How does our church exhibit Local Action?

How does our church exhibit Global Vision?

How does our church exhibit a Structure supporting Shared Mission?

Guardrails

Key Elements of Relational Empowerment for the Mission

Humility & Repentance (James 4:6; Acts 3:19): Trainees and trainers both own flaws.

Forgiveness & Patience (Col 3:13): Assume mistakes; restore gently (Gal 6:1).

Christ-centered Focus (Eph 2:14–16): Refuse personality cults.

Truth & Transparency (Eph 4:15): Clear doctrine, clear feedback.

Plural Leadership (elders/deacons) Distributes accountability and models team-work (Acts 14:23; Phil 1:1).

Persistent Prayer & Shared Worship (Acts 1:14; 2:42): Empowerment stays spiritual.

Missional Purpose (Phil 1:5): Aim at gospel advance, not resume building.

Biblical Authority: The Word sets the training agenda (2 Tim 3:16–17).

Humility & repentance (James 4:6; Acts 3:19): trainees and trainers both own flaws.

- Jas 4:6 But he gives greater grace. Therefore it says, “*God opposes the proud, but he gives grace to the humble.*”
- Act 3:19-20 Therefore repent and turn back so that your sins may be wiped out, (20) so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and so that he may send the Messiah appointed for you – that is, Jesus.

Forgiveness & patience (Col 3:13): assume mistakes; restore gently (Gal 6:1).

- Col 3:13 bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if someone happens to have a complaint against anyone else. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also forgive others.
- Gal 6:1 Brothers and sisters, if a person is discovered in some sin, you who are spiritual restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness. Pay close attention to yourselves, so that you are not tempted too.

Christ-centered focus (Eph 2:14–16): refuse personality cults.

- Eph 2:14-16 For he is our peace, the one who made both groups into one and who destroyed the middle wall of partition, the hostility, (15) when he nullified in his flesh the law of commandments in decrees. He did this to create in himself one new man out of two, thus making peace, (16) and to reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by which the hostility has been killed.

Truth & transparency (Eph 4:15): clear doctrine, clear feedback.

- Eph 4:15 But practicing the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head.

Plural leadership (elders/deacons) distributes power and models team (Acts 14:23; Phil 1:1).

- Act 14:23 When they had appointed elders for them in the various churches, with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the protection of the Lord in whom they had believed.
- Php 1:1 From Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the overseers and deacons.

Persistent prayer & shared worship (Acts 1:14; 2:42): empowerment stays spiritual.

- Act 1:14 All these continued together in prayer with one mind, together with the women, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.
- Act 2:42 They were devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Missional purpose (Phil 1:5): aim at gospel advance, not résumé building.

- Php 1:5 because of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

Biblical authority: the Word sets the training agenda (2 Tim 3:16–17).

- 2Ti 3:16-17 Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work.

An Empowerment Framework for Mission

Identify → Invest → Instruct → Involve → Impart → Intercede → Inspect

Identify (*who*): Look for **F.A.T.** people - *Faithful, Available, Teachable* (2 Tim 2:2).

Invest (*with*): Schedule life-on-life time - serve and pray together (1 Thes 2:8).

Instruct (*what*): The apostolic core teachings (gospel, sound doctrine, holy living) (2 Tim 1:13–14).

Involve (*how*): Give real assignments with safety nets (Luke 10:1–9; Acts 6:1–6).

Impart (*authority*): Delegate decisions appropriate to maturity (Titus 1:5).

Intercede (*spirit*): Pray over and with them; empowerment is Spirit-work (Acts 13:1–3).

Inspect (*feedback*): Loving review—*start/stop/continue*—“speaking the truth in love” (Eph 4:15).

Identify (*who*): look for **F.A.T.** people — *Faithful, Available, Teachable* (2 Tim 2:2).

- 2Ti 2:2 And what you heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be competent to teach others as well.

Invest (*with*): schedule life-on-life time—serve and pray together (1 Thes 2:8).

- 1Th 2:8 with such affection for you we were happy to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

Instruct (*what*): the apostolic core (gospel, sound doctrine, holy living) (1:13–14).

- 2Ti 1:13-14 Hold to the standard of sound words that you heard from me and do so with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (14) Protect that good thing entrusted to you, through the Holy Spirit who lives within us.

Involve (*how*): give real assignments with safety nets (Luke 10:1–9; Acts 6:1–6).

- Luk 10:1-9 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him two by two into every town and place where he himself was about to go. (2) He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest. (3) Go! I am sending you out like lambs surrounded by wolves. (4) Do not carry a money bag, a traveler’s bag, or sandals, and greet no one on the road. (5) Whenever you enter a house, first say, ‘May peace be on this house!’ (6) And if a peace-loving person is there, your peace will remain on him, but if not, it will return to you. (7) Stay in that same house, eating and drinking what they give you, for the worker deserves his pay. Do not move around from house to house. (8) Whenever you enter a town and the people welcome you, eat what is set before you. (9) Heal the sick in that town and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come upon you!’
- Act 6:1-6 Now in those days, when the disciples were growing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Greek-speaking Jews against the native Hebraic Jews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. (2) So the twelve called the whole group of the disciples together and said, “It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to wait on tables. (3) But carefully select from among you, brothers, seven men who are well-attested, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this necessary task. (4) But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” (5) The proposal pleased the entire group, so they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a Gentile convert to Judaism from Antioch. (6) They stood these men before the apostles, who prayed and placed their hands on them.

Impart (*authority*): delegate decisions appropriate to maturity (Titus 1:5).

- Tit 1:5 The reason I left you in Crete was to set in order the remaining matters and to appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

Intercede (*spirit*): pray over and with them; empowerment is Spirit-work (Acts 13:1–3).

- Act 13:1-3 Now there were these prophets and teachers in the church at Antioch: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius the Cyrenian, Manaen (a close friend of Herod the tetrarch from childhood) and Saul. (2) While they were serving the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” (3) Then, after they had fasted and prayed and placed their hands on them, they sent them off.

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