

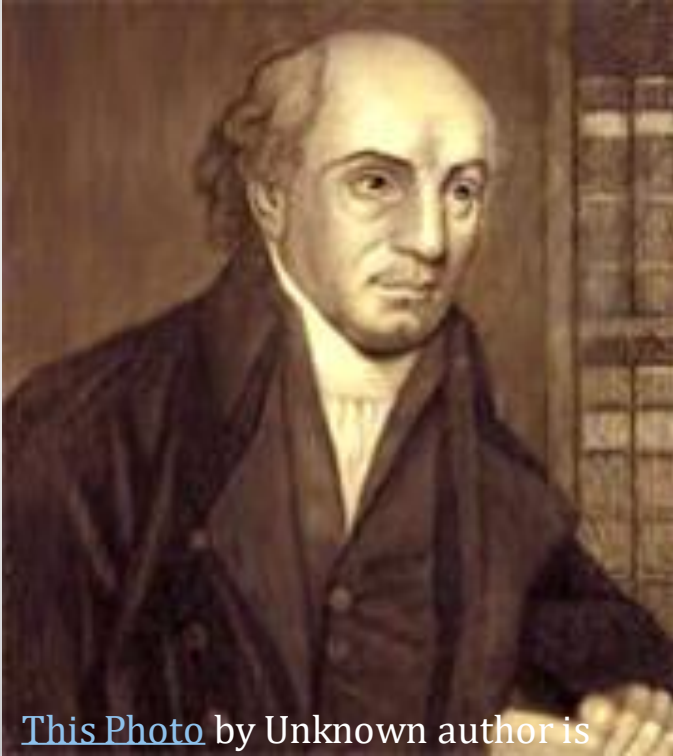
The ABC of Christian Missionary Work

By Dr. Tim Chang, Paul Jang, Luke Walsh, Annalisa Stoll, John Chevere, Briana Slaubaugh, Natasha Leininger, and Amelia Thomas

Introduction

- The goal is to demonstrate God's unchanging truth and emphasize the topic of unity conducted through love as it relates to obeying the Great Commission.
- This will be outlined through the ABC framework for Christian missionary work
- The essential truth for all Christians is "The Way of the Cross, by Grace"

William Carey

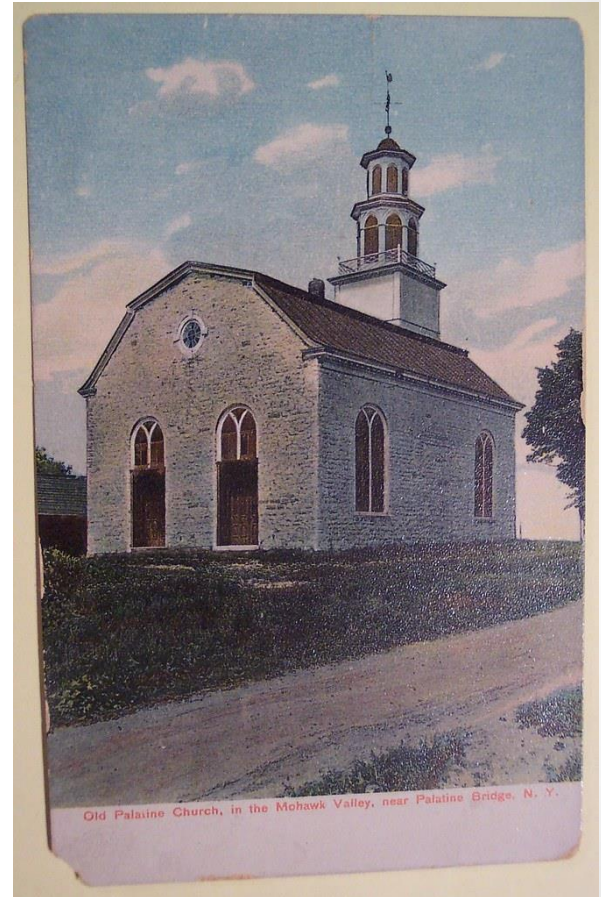


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- Founded the Baptist Missionary Society in 1792.¹
- Wrote *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens*.
- Fought for Human Rights in India.²
- Translated the Bible into Bengali, Oriya, Marathi, Hindi, Assamese, and Sanskrit.³

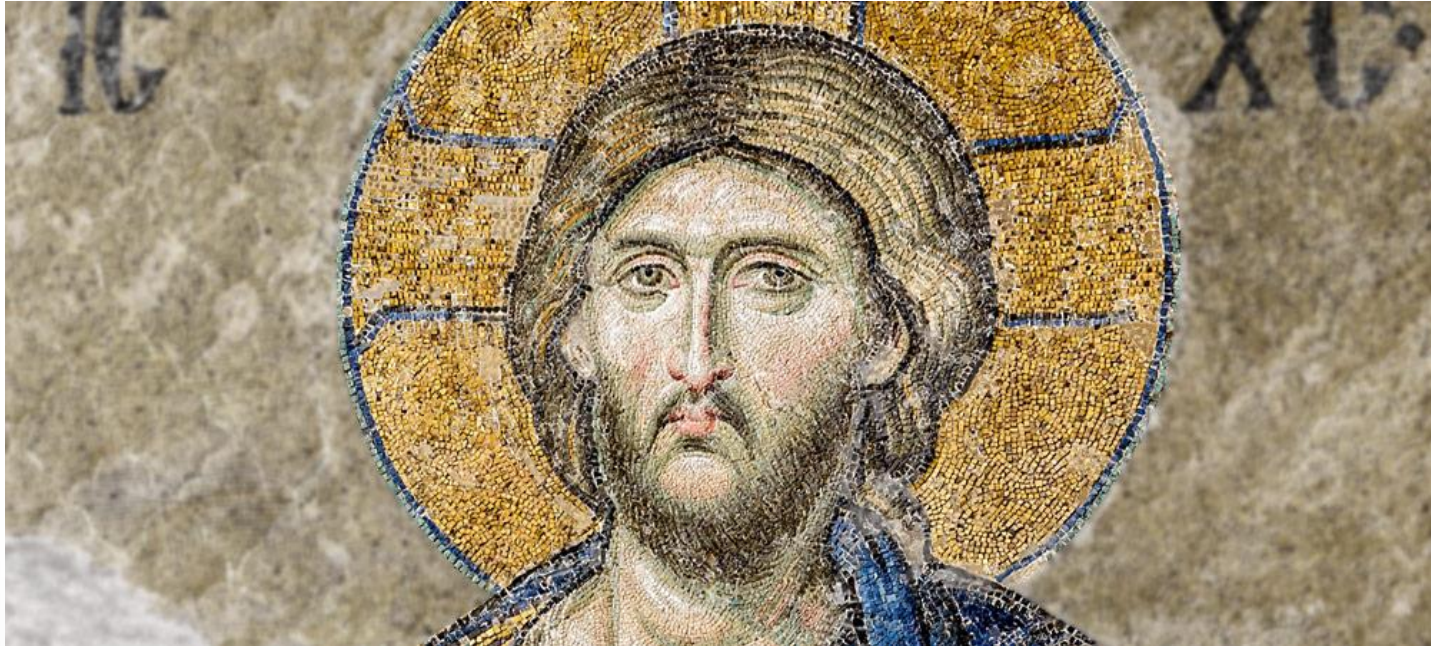
Form vs Meaning

- To truly fulfill the great commission, believers must work together in love with Jesus at the center, unifying us all.
- The meaning of Christianity= Jesus Christ and the Way of the Cross
- The Form of Christianity= secondary issues



Old Palatine Church, in the Mohawk Valley, near Palatine Bridge, N. Y.

Jesus' Prayer



Imperative For The Believer

- John 17:23b “that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me” (ESV).⁴
- Martin Luther and Ulrich Zwingli famously agreed on fourteen articles of faith, but not on the 15th regarding the Eucharist, and remained separated.⁵
- Christians must carefully discern what issues are the meaning of Christianity and what is the form.⁶



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Unity and The Great Commission

- Unity of believers authenticates the message of Jesus Christ in the eyes of the world.
- The Moravians mustered a diverse coalition of believers made up of Calvinists, Hussites, Lutherans, and Roman Catholics, and sent missionaries to 28 countries in 28 years.⁷
- Unity improves the effectiveness of missions.



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Spiritual Warfare: Ephesians 6



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There is A Spiritual War

- “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:10-12, English Standard Version)

Our Power is Ultimately God

- The believers' ability to withstand the devil ultimately comes from God. This reliance on God is a form of grace for the believer.



"A": Always Put First Kingdom Values Over Cultural Values

The Glory of God and Cultural Values Over Kingdom Values in Japan

"A" – All To The Glory of God

- The primary kingdom value is by putting God first. There is an importance in giving God glory above all things.
- Christopher Southgate stated, “the derived principal term for divine glory in the Hebrew word kavōd is associated with weight, importance, significance, rather than beauty or radiance.”⁸ For the believer, we need to acknowledge that God is the highest priority. All other things become subservient to the glory of God.



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"A" – Kanzo Uchimura

- There is a tendency to want to put our cultural preferences above the Kingdom. It is important to be able to distinguish kingdom values and our cultural preferences.
- Christianity failed to spread as successfully in Japan due to missionaries' failure to see the difference between form and meaning, and what is essential and what is not.⁹

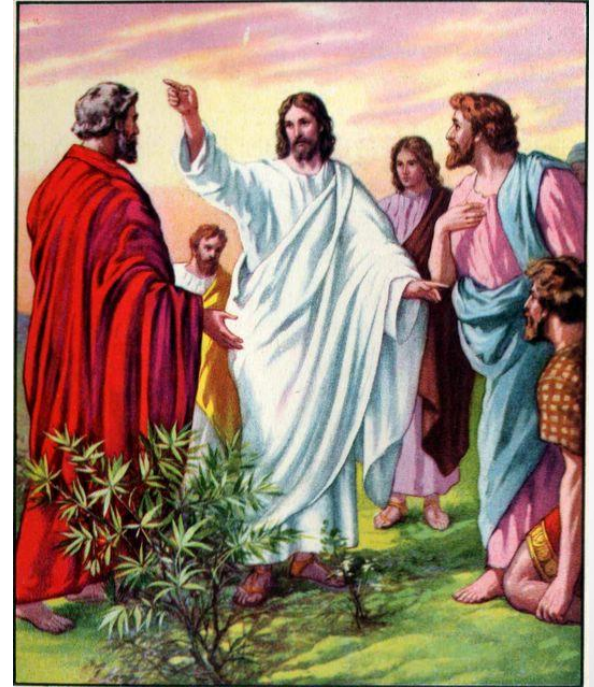


"B": Begin and End with Planting Biblical and Reproducible Churches

Equipping Other Believers and the Importance of Church Unity in the Great Commission

"B"- Equipping Other Believers

- Jesus' Ministry centered on His 12 disciples who would bring His church to all ends of the world, which displays the priesthood of all believers.
- God used William Carey, a man who had little to no theological training, to change a country and the history of modern missions. This is enormous proof that God can use any believer to be His priest.
- Every local church has a lifespan. The important thing is to make sure that people are equipped to continue the work of the church or movement after its lifespan is over.

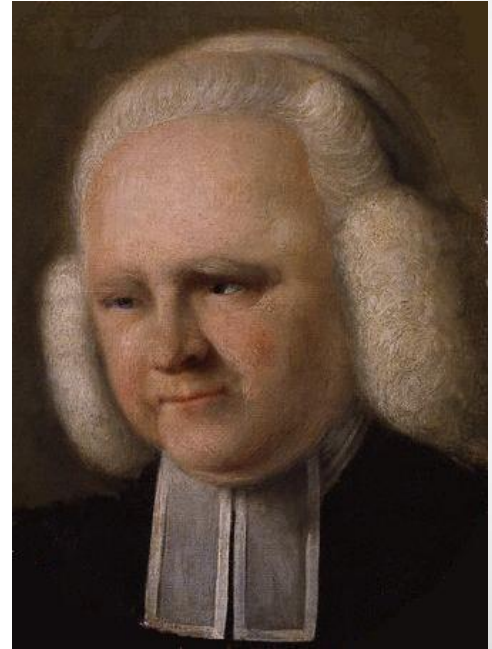


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"B"- The Importance of Church Unity in the Great Commission

- Disunity and dividing the church over secondary issues not only goes against Jesus' prayer in John 17, but it also causes confusion for the outside world. How can anyone understand truth if the Body of Christ can't agree enough to teach the core of the Gospel message?
- George Whitefield (1714-1770) was an Anglican who imagined himself having an conversation with Abraham. He asks him which denominations Abraham sees in Heaven. Abraham responds, "We have none here except those who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb."¹⁰



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"C": Continue And Obey the Main Task of the Great Commission

Biblical Basis for the Great Commission

Biblical Basis for the Great Commission: Old Testament

- The call to bring the Gospel to the nations has been imbedded in God's great story from the very beginning!
- Abraham is the "Father of Many Nations" and through him a blessing to the nations (Gen. 12).
- Rahab knows about God and submits to Him (Joshua 2)
- God sends Jonah to the nations! "God spares and rescues. Jerusalem's God is Nineveh's as well."¹¹

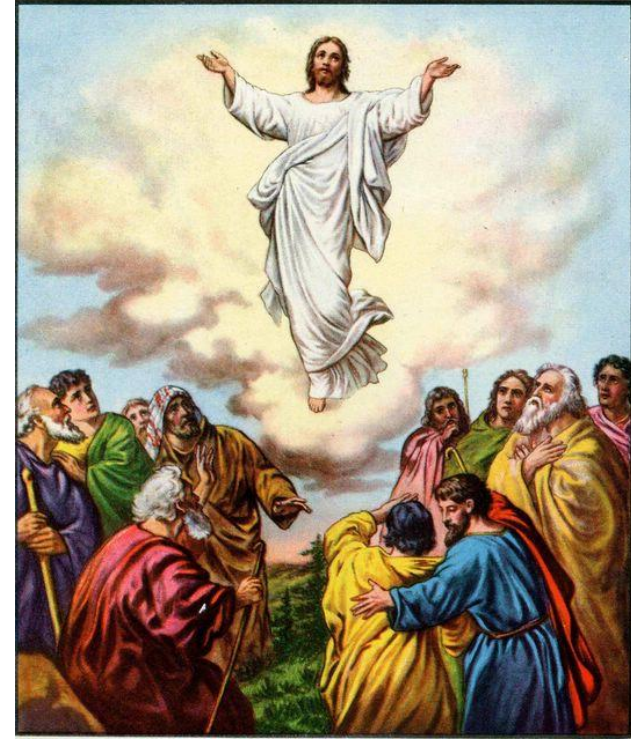


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Biblical Basis for the Great Commission: New Testament

- Jesus proclaims that the Gospel will go to all the nations of the world (Luke 24:47)
- Jesus ascends into Heaven, he gives the Great Commission: “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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (MT 28:20)
- Paul proclaimed that his chief goal was to spread the Gospel (Acts 20)
- According to Ott, Strauss, and Tennent, “For Paul there was no question: the highest good is to win others for Christ.”¹²



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Completing the ABC's: Loving One Another

Love and Unity Through the Way of the Cross.

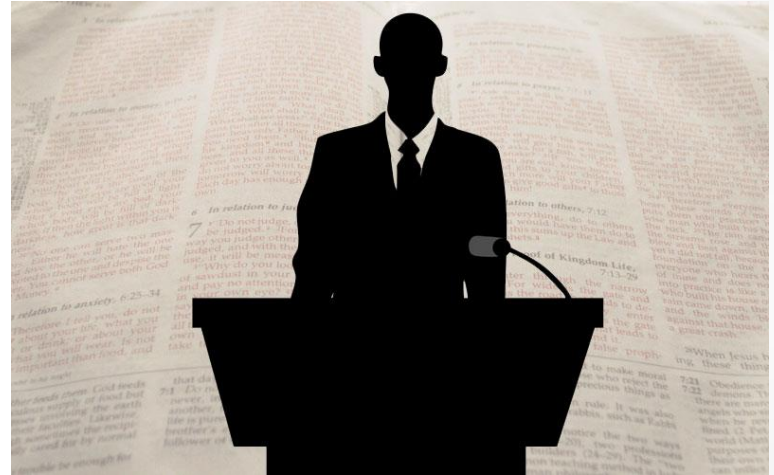
Discernment is Gained Through Sacrifice

- Romans 12:1b-2- "present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (*ESV*).
- Living Sacrifices in 12:1
- Discernment of Will of God through repeated obedience



Sacrifice Is Giving All For the Cross

- 1 Cor 1:17- "For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power."
- The cross is everything, not titles, equality, eloquence, or ability.



Sacrifice Is Putting Others Above Yourself

- Philippians 2:3- "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."
- The way of the cross is putting others above yourself
- Centralizing the Cross makes love and unity primary



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Conclusion

- "A"- Always Kingdom values over cultural values
- "B"- Beginning and ending with planting biblical reproducible churches
- "C"- Continuing to obey the main task of the Great Commission.
- It is by the Way of the Cross, by Grace the Christian faith is lived out daily.
- Through Jesus, Christians can display and act in biblical love, and unity, and fulfill the Great Commission.

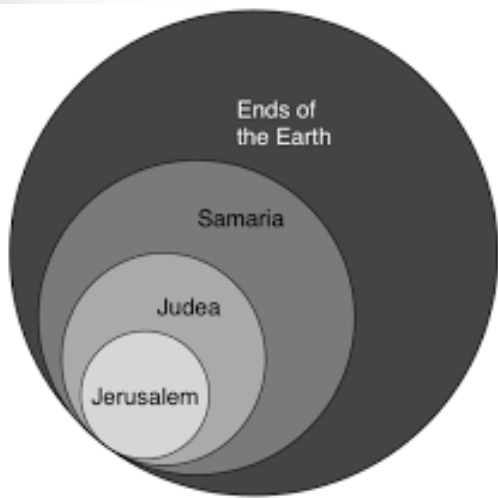
Appendix I

Case Study of the NT church

- Within the new testament we see
- The specific directions given by Christ that directed toward and enabled church unity?
- The early church's application of these directions in the context of multiplication.
- The church's application of these directions within conflict.

Case study NT Jesus' foundation

- Peter's specific call-Centralized leadership (Matt. 16:18, John 21:15-19)
- Conflict Protocol (Matt. 18:15-18)
- Foreshadowing spirit and Truth Worship (John 4:23a)
- The Command to an overflow mission's model (John 13:34-35, John 17:21, Acts 1:8)



NT Case study: Church Application

- Spirit and Truth movements grounded in unity (Acts 2:46-47, 4:32, Acts 8:15-16, 10:45-46, Acts 15:22-30)
 - Removal of sin (Acts 5, Gal. 1:8, 1 Cor. 5:9-12)
- New Growth New Leadership (
 - New Church Elders (Acts 6)
 - New Commissioning style (Acts 13:1-5)
- Conflict resolved through scripture and observing what the spirit is doing.
 - Samaritans included in the Kingdom (Acts 11:1-18)
 - Gentile's inclusion (Acts 15:2-11, 22)
- In conflict, reconciliation that reunifies
 - Reconciliation with Mark Col. 3:13,
 - Paul's consistency (4:10 Phil. 2:1-2)

Appendix II

Current Needs

- 42.5% of the world's population is unreached (meaning the population is made up of >5% Christian and >2% evangelical). This comes out to about 3.37 billion people!
- Only 22.9% of the world's population is considered significantly reached, meaning its population is <10% evangelical.
- Genuine renewal work by the Holy Spirit will always lead to an increased focus on missions and evangelism.
- In Isaiah 6, Isaiah's first response when seeing God is to say, "Here I am, send me!"

The Church's Role

- The Church must be willing to place a high emphasis on unity for the sake of the Great Commission.
- The local church should engage its local community as well as encouraging and equipping members to go overseas or assist overseas mission from home.
- Kids, teens, and young adults should be equipped too! Austin Gutwein was only 9-years-old when he started raising money for orphans in Zambia and teaching other kids to do the same!

Appendix III

The Example of the Apostle Paul

- The Pauline example teaches that mission workers will appear as fools as "for the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight." (1 Corinthians 3:19).
- The viewpoint of the world is markedly different from that of the biblical worldview of success of living for Christ.
- One is called to live a life of sacrifice for the building and expansion of the Kingdom.

The Example of the Apostle Paul

- There is a continual denial of one's flesh and a worldly perspective of material gain, and the missionary call is to pursue Christ and biblical worldviews.
- One is compelled to not fear persecution, suffering, and hardship for the sake of the Gospel and its expansion around the world on mission.
- This calls for a close examination and emulation of the Pauline example of a heart posture toward mission work.

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