

# OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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**SERMON TITLE** If You Love the Lord, part 9

**SERIES** If you love the Lord

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**KEY SCRIPTURE** Matthew 28

**SYNOPSIS** Reach out.

**HIGHLIGHTS**



## ☞ If You Love the Lord

**John 14:15**

**If you love me, you will keep my commandments.**

**True love will be shown and, to demonstrate your love for the Lord, you will obey him.**

☞ Today, we will be in **Matthew 28...**

### ☞ Make Disciples

Matthew 28:18-20

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."

This is commonly called the Great Commission. We previously talked about the Great Commandment, which is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. Now, the Great Commission is all about reaching out and making disciples. At the end of every gospel, Jesus commissions his followers to spread the good news.

John 20:21

As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.

*God did not call you to hide from the world. He called you to go into the world. We cannot make disciples at a distance.*

### ☞ We Are Called To Reach Out

How can we possibly reach the nations and the world?  
(together; and, the same way you eat an elephant)

*An older gentleman was walking along the seashore one day in the hot sun. As he walked he was sweating profusely and seemed to be in a hurry! Every few steps he would bend over, pick up a starfish from the hot, burning sands and cast it back into the cool waves. One after another he would pick the starfish up and cast them into the water. Some would return to the hot sand as the waves washed them back in while most would eventually go into the deeper waters of safety.*

*A young man came along, after having watched this for a while and told the old man, "You are wasting your time and energy. There are thousands of starfish on the sand, what difference can you possibly make?"*

*The old man seemed to ignore this younger man. He simply bent over, picked up another starfish and threw it into the water. As he quickly moved on to the next one, the old man turned to the younger man and said, "Well, it sure made a difference for that one didn't it!"*



Sometimes people think that outreach and evangelism are for the experts or for the church as a whole. While there are some who are especially gifted at evangelism and we do have some church activities to reach out, this Great Commission is really a call to every single believer. If you're a follower of Christ, it is God's plan for you to reach out and lead others to Christ.

And there is no other plan. God WILL do His part in reaching the people around us but it's obvious that God expects us to do our part in spreading the message to others. In fact, He's gone so far as to tell us that people cannot believe in Jesus if they've not heard of Him (Romans 10:14) – from people like us. The salvation of others hinges on whether they hear about Jesus from us.

**☞ Every heart without Christ is a mission field--every heart with Christ is a missionary.**

And, interestingly, the most effective form of evangelism is one on one, personal outreach. In a survey, when Christians were asked, "How did you come to know the Lord?" here were the responses:

- .0001% .....TV or Crusade
- 1-2% ..... Cold turkey evangelism
- 2-4% ..... Church program
- 3-6% ..... Sunday School
- 4-6% ..... "Walk-in"
- 6-8% ..... Minister
- 74% ..... Friends and relatives

Rick Warren comments that "go" could easily be translated "as you go," make disciples... So, the essence of this Great Command is to simply **share Jesus in your daily routine.**

*---Dan Greene... Witnessing is not a spare-time occupation or a once-a-week activity. It must be a quality of life. You don't go witnessing, you are a witness.*

*-- Donald Grey Barnhouse... A generation ago there was a wealthy man in the Midwest who was an outstanding Christian layman. People used to ask him what he did. He would reply, "I am a witness for Jesus Christ, but I pack pork to pay expenses."*

That's a great attitude to have, and if you really love the Lord, which is the theme of this entire series of sermons, you will talk about him. People always talk about things they love and are interested in.

*A little boy who returned home after his first Sunday school class and his mother asked, "Who was your teacher?" The little boy answered, "I don't remember her name, but she must have been Jesus' grandmother because she didn't talk about anyone else."*

Sometimes people get stuck on how to go about sharing their faith. You may be living a godly life and people notice, but how do you bridge that gap and actually talk about Jesus? There's no *one* right way.



*One day a lady criticized D. L. Moody for his methods of evangelism in attempting to win people to the Lord. Moody's reply was "I agree with you. I don't like the way I do it either. Tell me, how do you do it?" The lady replied, "I don't do it." Moody retorted, "Then I like my way of doing it better than your way of not doing it."*

So, there's no one right way, but here are a few suggestions from some experts:

*Bill Fay suggests:*

☞ **Never ignore the coincidence of the people God has placed before you.** *Instead, look for ways to build relationships.*

Acts 17:26-27

*he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him,*

- *Introduce yourself to your neighbors.*
- *Let them know you pray often. Ask if they have anything you could pray about on their behalf. Then, follow up later.*
- *Use your hobby, sports activity, health center, or club to build relationships.*
- *Organize a block party and have a barbeque.*
- *Do kind deeds such as clear your neighbor's driveway in the winter.*
- *When someone you know is suffering, listen, send a card of encouragement, take them a meal, etc.*

*Realize that unsaved people are not the enemy. They are prisoners of the enemy.*

*Meet unchurched people where they are, speak a language they can hear, tell them what Jesus has done for you, and invite them to make a similar decision.*

☞ **Think of yourself as a missionary to Boone.**

Aren't you glad somebody told you the good news?

Think about the impact of winning just one person can do...

*A Sunday School teacher, a Mr. Kimball, in 1858, led a Boston shoe clerk to give his life to Christ.*

*The clerk, Dwight L. Moody, became an evangelist. In England in 1879, he awakened evangelistic zeal in the heart of Fredrick B. Meyer, pastor of a small church.*

*F. B. Meyer, preaching to an American college campus, brought to Christ a student named J. Wilbur Chapman.*

*Chapman, engaged in YMCA work, employed a former baseball player, Billy Sunday, to do evangelistic work.*



*Billy Sunday held a revival in Charlotte, N.C. A group of local men were so enthusiastic afterward that they planned another evangelistic campaign, bringing Mordecai Hamm to town to preach.*

*During Hamm's revival, a young man named Billy Graham heard the gospel and yielded his life to Christ.*


*Only eternity will reveal the tremendous impact of that one Sunday School teacher, Mr. Kimball, who invested his life in the lives of others.*

Every one counts!

*There are several dozen “pre-Christians” right in your neighborhood.*

*- Dr. D. James Kennedy... One of the saddest statistics of our day is that 95% of all church members have never led anyone to Christ.*

Let's break that stat and do better! Begin now to strengthen some relationship you already have. Be intentional. Share your faith.

Thus, concludes our series “If you love the Lord.” If you do, you will obey his commands. We are  commanded to **reconcile** and **restore** broken relationships, to **repent** and run to Christ.

 We are to follow the **Golden Rule**, the **Great Commandment**, and the **Great Commission**. We are called to **rely fully on him** because we can't do it all in our own strength.

 **If you love the Lord, you will obey his commands.**