

**Living Out Our Reformation Convictions:
Marks Of A Great Commission People**

Romans 15:14-24

- I. We will pursue the main thing while still doing many good things.
15:14-16

- II. We will focus on the nations 15:16

- III. We will be Christ-centered in all that we do 15:17-19

- IV. We will be gospel saturated in all we do. 15:19-20

- V. We will be passionate for the unreached and unengaged peoples of the world. 15:20-23

- VI. We will do our part in helping those whom God sends to the hard places.
15:24

Marks Of A Great Commission People

Romans 15:14-24

Introduction: 1) David Platt: “Romans is a missionary fundraising letter with an extended introduction! 2) 6 observations from the inspired text of Scripture that remind us what a Great Commission people look like.

I. We will pursue the main thing while still doing many good things.

15:14-16

- 1) Great missionaries and great theologians should always go together! (Ex. Jesus; Paul). David Livingston, “God had only one Son and He made Him a missionary.”

II. We will focus on the nations

15:16

- 1) J. Oswald Smith said, “The supreme task of the church is the evangelization of the world. No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, until everyone has had an opportunity to hear it at least once.”

11,749 People groups

7.48 billion People

6,693 unreached people

3,260 unengaged people

3.1 billion with limited or no access to the gospel.

- 2) Baptist theologian Carl F. H. Henry: “The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time.”

III. We will be Christ-centered in all that we do. 15:17-19

- 1) Henry Martyn, missionary to India and Persia who died at 31 well said,
“The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become.”
- 2) Missionary C. T. Studd: “If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.”

IV. We will be gospel saturated in all we do. 15:19-20

- 1) In Rom 1:16-17 he says, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”
- 2) The gospel is not similar to Mark Twain’s description of the Church:
“The church is good people standing in front of good people telling them how to be good.”
- 3) No one has helped us more at this point than Tim Keller.

Religion: I obey-therefore I’m accepted by Christ.

The Gospel: I’m accepted in Christ-therefore I obey.

Religion: I obey so that God will love me.

The Gospel: God loves me and so I obey.

Religion: Motivation is based on fear and insecurity.

The Gospel: Motivation is based on grateful joy.

Religion: I obey God in order to get things from God.

The Gospel: I obey God to get God-to delight and resemble Him.

Religion: My self-view swings between two poles. If and when I am living up to my standards, I feel confident, but then I am prone to be proud and unsympathetic to failing people. If and when I am not living up to standards, I feel insecure and inadequate. I'm not confident. I feel like a failure.

The Gospel: My self-view is not based on a view of myself as a moral achiever. In Christ I am simultaneously sinful and yet accepted in Christ. I am so bad He had to die for me and I am so loved He was glad to die for me.

* The gospel teaches us that the person who has Jesus plus nothing has everything! On the other hand, the person who has everything minus Jesus has nothing.

V. **We will be passionate for the unreached and unengaged peoples of the world.**

15:20-23

- 1) Tom Schreiner “Paul’s strategy was apparently to plant churches in key cities and from there co-workers would fan out and evangelize smaller towns (cf. Epaphras in Colossians). He believed that his foundation work was completed in this region, and thus he planned to further the work in areas where Gentile churches were not planted.”
- 2) John Falconer said, “I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light.”

VI. We will do our part in helping those whom God sends to the hard places.

15:24

C. H. Spurgeon: “Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.”

- 1) Great Commission churches are praying, giving and sending churches.

Conclusion: I continue to be hounded by the tract that move James Fraser to leave the comforts of England and go to a mountain region in Western China to see that the Lisu of China might hear the gospel of King Jesus:

“A command has been given: ‘Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.’ It has not been obeyed. More than half the people in the world have never yet heard the Gospel. What are we to say to this? Surely it concerns us Christians very seriously. For we are the people who are responsible ...”

“If our Master returned today to find millions of people un-evangelized, and looked as of course He would look, to us for an explanation, I cannot imagine what explanation we should have to give ... Of one thing I am certain – that most of the excuses we are accustomed to make with such good conscience now, we should be wholly ashamed of then.” (*Do Not Say*).

Some Practical Questions to consider:

- Do I model Great Commission Christianity before my children and grandchildren?
- Do I pray that God would call my children and grandchildren to be international missionaries?
- Do I have a missions saving account for my children/grandchildren?
- Do I have the work of my Lord in my will whereby I can make my single largest gift to the Lord’s work at my death?
- Am I generous, even sacrificial, in giving to my church, in the area of missions?
- Have I adopted a people group internationally and here in North America?
- Have I gone on a short term trip to see just how lost the world is?
- Am I involved in church planting?
- Do I pray regularly for the nations?