The Great Commandment – *Matt. 22:37-40*

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it, you shall love your neighbour as yourself.

**The Great Commandment**

The Great Commandment is love, but love has two dimensions.

1. Love to God
2. Love to our neighbours

Upon these two hang the law and the prophets.

The Great Commandment gives us two purposes of the churches, loving God and loving our neighbours.

**Loving God**

Loving God is a reflection of the first table of the law. To love God is to serve, respect, adore, and worship him with all our total being, heart, soul, and mind.

Jesus says: “Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.” (*Matt. 4:10*)

Notice that Jesus said worship God comes first then serving God.

Worshiping God therefore is the first purpose of the church.

**Rick Warren says:** “Sometimes we get so busy working for God that we don’t have time to express our love for him through worship.”
Worshiping God-Magnifying Him

Mary says: “My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.” (Luke 1:46-47)

David says: “O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together.” (Psa. 34:3)

Loving God is to worship and magnify him with all our whole being.

Loving Our Neighbours

Loving our neighbours is serving them in ministry.

So we are not only to express our love to God by worshiping him and serving him but also to express it horizontally in service to our fellowmen in ministry by meeting their needs and healing their hurts and sorrows.

Each time we reach out in love to others we minister to them.

Ministry therefore is an expression of our love to our fellowmen.

Ministry Two Dimensions

Ministry has two main focuses.

1. The first is within the church itself. Service within the church.
2. The second is in the wider community.

Baptism is an ordination to ministry within the church and in the wider community. What is the percentage of our members are ministering?

Rick Warren says: “Unfortunately, very little actual ministry takes place in many churches. Instead, much time is taken up in meetings. Faithfulness is often defined in terms of attendance rather than service, and members just sit, soak, and sour.”

The Great Commandment

In the Great Commandment, Jesus Christ outlines two important purposes of the church.

The Great commandment is love but love has two directions – vertical and horizontal.

1. Love to God – is to magnify him
2. Love to mankind – is ministry to others
Questions and Discussions:

1. Worship and ministry, how does the church measure up to the Great Commandment?
2. Why in our church are there delays in corporate worships. Outline the problems and solutions.


The Five Purposes of the church According to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission

1. Loving God - Magnifying (worshiping) Him
2. Loving men - Ministering to them
3. Making disciples - Mission of the church
4. Baptizing them - Members of the church
5. Teaching them - Maturity and growth

Summary of the Purpose Statements

1. Magnify: We celebrate God’s presence in worship.
2. Mission: We communicate God’s word through evangelism.
3. Membership: We incorporate the newly baptized members into the fellowship of the church – the body of Christ.
4. Maturity: We educate God’s people through discipleship.
5. Ministry: We demonstrate God’s love through service.

Program or Process

Rick Warren says: “Instead of trying to grow a church with a program, focus on growing people with a process.”

The Great Commandment and the Great Commission is all about growing people through a process.

Warren says: “Don’t focus on growing a church with a program, focus on growing people with a process. “
Our Mission

The church is to bring people as members, build them up to maturity, train them for ministry, and send them out into the world for mission, and magnifying the Lord in the process.

The church business is discipleship. The product is Christ-like people. We produce Christ-like people through a process.

The Great Commandment and the Great Commission is all about process.

Rick Warren

“A Great Commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission will grow a Great Church.”

Seminars Under Various Purposes of the Church

Below are possible seminar topics for various purposes of the church. These are not exhaustive but suggestive to get you started.

These will suggest to you the need for re-orientation in doing church.

You will see the major role of the pastor here as a resource person for the church and equipping members for their ministry within their gifts.

Under Mission

01. Understanding witnessing
02. Understanding evangelism
03. Learning the art of visitation
04. How to mark your Bible?
05. How to give Bible study?
06. How to create interests?
07. How to meet objections?
08. How to work for missing members?
09. How to run voice of youth?
10. How run Revelation Seminars?
11. How to break down prejudices?
12. How to preach?
13. Getting decision

14. Evangelistic sermons etc.

**Under Membership**

1. Baptismal class

2. Understanding the nature of the church as the body of Christ - people

3. Understanding the church as organization

4. Understanding church organization

5. Assimilation and bonding

6. Belonging and family

7. Church standards

8. Church leadership


**Under Maturity**

01. How to have a meaningful relationship with Jesus?

02. Understanding the Habits of the Christian life

03. How to have a meaningful devotional life?

04. How to have a happy family?

05. How to study the Bible?

06. How to pray effectively?

07. How to give liberally-stewardship?

08. How to keep the Sabbath?

09. How to worship meaningfully?

10. How to grow spiritually?

11. Revival and pastoral sermons etc.
Under Ministry

01. Understanding the laity
02. Understanding ministry
03. Understanding spiritual gifts
04. Understanding baptism
05. Understanding the role of small groups
06. Lay training
07. Recruitment and enlisting members
08. Counselling
09. Leadership
10. Understanding servant-hood etc.

Under Magnifying

01. Understanding the theology of worship
02. Understanding God
03. Man as the image of God
04. Worship and fellowship
05. Worship and tithing
06. Worship and offerings
07. Worship and music
08. Worship and the Sabbath
09. Worship in spirit
10. Worship in truth
12. False worship
13. Sin of ritualistic worship