
Acts: Unit 2

NOTE: This document came out of a socratic discussion introducing the key ideas in Unit 2. Therefore it is only in outline form to help support the main body of teaching released in the discussion.

Unit 2: The Role of the Local Church in Fulfilling the Great Commission

Building on the data of the Acts study, this unit addresses the issue of the centrality of the local church in God's plan for this age. In our generation, the Great Commission is often reduced to an individualistic enterprise—the multiplication of individuals. The question is asked: How did the Great Commission unfold? The unit attempts to demonstrate that the focus in the first century was not the multiplication of individuals but the multiplication of believing communities—local churches—and that the local church was central to the unfolding of this plan.

Skills Development

Reading, Writing, Discussing, Building a Response Create solutions to difficulties, challenges, & problems

1. We are in the process of developing skills in reading, writing, thinking through issues in conversation, and building a response (competency project)
2. First we comprehend a topic, then we study the pieces through analysis and then we put the pieces together to solve a problem in synthesis.
3. The need for skills development is great.
4. Skills development is a process.
5. The benefits are worth the work.

6. The analogy of growing through this process is similar to the human body digesting food.

Key Issues:

1. The understanding of the Great Commission.
2. The understanding of God's plan for the local church in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Key Questions:

What is the Great Commission?

I will build My Church (Commandments/Instructions) (Mt 16:18, Acts 1:2)

who will...

1. **Go** (Sharing, Preaching, demonstrating [healing], a "growing" church is a "going" church)
2. **Make** Disciples of all nations

by...

1. **Baptizing** them in the name of the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit
2. **Teaching** to observe (obey) all things that I have commanded you

Who does the work?

1. **Jesus**

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*Matthew 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

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1. **The Holy Spirit**



*Acts 1:2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given **commandments** to the **apostles** whom He had chosen,*

1. **Servants of God** (Church)



*1 Corinthians 3:6 I (**Paul**) planted, **Apollos** watered, but God gave the increase.*

Summative Thoughts

Process of delegated authority with assignment

- **Father** sends the...
- **Son** sends the...
- **Holy Spirit**...works through the...
- **Ecclesia**

Though the Church is everywhere in the form of the "Universal Church", it is composed of many local assemblies or Local Churches. The local assembly is the practical expression of the Universal Church that is able to fulfill the Great Commission in tangible and experiential ways to homes, cities, and families.

The Great Commission is about multiplying Local Churches.

The Great Commission is about multiplying local churches, not just individuals. We will see the great focus and context of the Great Commission in Acts and the New Testament that shows the work of the

Great Commission being done with the planting and establishing of local churches at the center of the plan.

Therefore, it is the local church that is the key "missionary" center who then mobilizes...

- Individuals
- Families
- ParaChurch Missionary Organizations
- Other ministries.
- Non-Profit
- Charitable Organizations
- Businesses
- Education
- Government

If we remove the planting and establishing of local churches, we literally removed the primary agency who Jesus is sending to do the work of the Great Commission. Without the Local Church serving as the primary Great Commission agency there is a type of chaotic cacophony of activity that is unfocused and much less effective than what should be.

The Purpose of the EveryHouse School of Leadership

One of the main purposes of the EveryHouse School of Leadership is to use it as a tool to raise up strong New Testament Christians who will be a part of the fuller expression of planting and establishing churches who will disciple believers who will go, make disciples, baptize, and teach others to obey all that Jesus Christ has commanded.