

Long before King Jesus gave His disciples a Great Commission, God commissioned Adam and Eve with five commands that would have changed the world for His glory. In the beginning, God created the heavens, and He created a world which was lacking order and was empty and dark. God solved the darkness with light. He solved the emptiness with abundant plant and animal life, but He allowed that new life to run wild. He had brought degrees of order by dividing light and dark, land from sea, and establishing annual seasons. The living creatures however, He entrusted to His appointed King and Queen by their Great Commission in five commands to "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

BE FRUITFUL

God first called Adam and Eve into the joys of marriage. He wanted them to love one another as He had designed them, and if they would enjoy their love, God would make them fruitful with physical children. Today, marriage continues to be blessed by God, but He commissions us more specifically to bear spiritual fruit. If we will love God and humans (Matthew 22:37-38) in the power of the Holy Spirit as He designed us to love (Galatians 5:22), then God will make us fruitful too (John 15:16), bearing spiritual children (2 Timothy 2:1; 1 Peter 5:13; 3 John 1:4). By our love one for another, Jesus promised in John 17:20-21 the world will believe He is the Christ (King). When they believe He is the King, they become spiritual fruits (1 John 5:1).

MULTIPLY

God fruited them with Cain, Abel, Seth, and others, but fruitfulness was only their first command. He called Adam and Eve to multiply, which meant their fruits had to be fruitful too. In similar fashion, the disciples of King Jesus did not merely bear fruit by love, they also taught their fruit to how to love. The disciples did not just add to the Kingdom, but multiplied by teaching their fruits how to be fruitful.

Paul called Timothy his spiritual son in 2 Timothy 2:1, then called Timothy to multiply in the very next verse: "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." From Paul's love and instruction, Timothy the Fruit became fruity with "faithful men" who would bear the fruit of "others also."

FILL THE EARTH

Little did Adam and Eve realize, but their relationship would eventually impact every corner of this planet. Most likely they had no idea how large the world was or how long it would take, but the first Great Commission encompassed the whole earth. Likewise, in the Great Commission of the new kingdom, King Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..."

His disciples went deep into Africa, Asia, and Europe. The disciples of His disciples have gone into every nation on earth, spreading the gospel of King Jesus.

SUBDUE

God called Adam and Eve and their descendants to subdue every living creature which moved on the earth. That Hebrew command *kabash* literally meant to subjugate or "make subjects." Every living thing on earth lived in the wild. God commissioned His king and queen to make subjects of the wild animals.

When King Jesus had received all authority in heaven and on earth, He commissioned His followers to likewise make subjects, specifically to make disciple-subjects of the new King. A disciple follows and learns in subjection to King Jesus. We don't just bear spiritual fruit; we teach our spiritual fruits to become learners.

RULE OVER

Last, God commissioned Adam and Eve to rule over all the animals and over every living thing which moved on the earth. When God called them to rule, He called them to *rabah* in Hebrew, which means to "have domain." In his kingdom, a king exercises *rabah*. A king has domain in his kingdom as King Solomon exercised *rabah* in 1 Kings 4:24.

When King Jesus commissioned His followers, He did not call us to make disciples who would obey *us*, but obey *Him*. Until they sinned, Adam and Eve could walk the earth rightly declaring, "the Kingdom of God has arrived." Wherever the creatures were subdued, Adam and Eve had dominion. Wherever they walked, the Kingdom of God had come near. King Jesus did not call His disciples to rule, but to teach others the fact that He rules. Adam and Eve made subjects and ruled their subjects. Disciples of King Jesus make learners and teach them to obey King Jesus.

As you live out your faith at Grace, we pray that you would be fruitful and multiply by bearing spiritual fruit. As you show and share the good news of the Gospel, we pray that hearts and lives would be changed. Please pray that our congregation wouldn't just "go to church," but we would "BE THE CHURCH!"

Please pray for the following areas:

- ✓ Pray that our church would see our lives in light of the Gospel. Pray that the people of Grace would make a daily decision to die to their sinful passions and experience the power of the resurrection so that they produce spiritual fruit. May this growth bring them joy and a desire to seek God even more.
- ✓ Pray for our church to have a missional zeal to see their family and friends know Jesus. Whether we are inviting people to a service for the first time, or inviting people to make a first-time decision in Christ, pray that our congregation would believe that God could use them to share the Gospel and make disciples. Pray that our people would be patient for their family and friends to respond.
- ✓ Pray for our reach in the city. As our congregation serves in practical ways, pray that the hearts of unbelieving people would be softened in being served by others. As our people show the gospel through their serving, pray that they would have the boldness to share the gospel. Pray for hearts to be open and for people to respond.
- ✓ Pray for our reach in the world. As we have missionaries serving on almost every continent, pray that the Gospel would continue to go out in a powerful way. Pray that the needs of our missionaries and their families would be met financially, emotionally, and spiritually. Pray that God would continue to expand our vision in who we are able to reach as a congregation.

For the Gospel,
Pastor Bryan