

The Makings for a Great 2008 at Grace
Matthew 16:13-18
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Grace Church Purpose Statement:

*"Grace Church exists to bring people to Jesus and **membership** in His family, develop them to Christ-like **maturity**, and equip them for their **ministry** in the church and life **mission** in the world, in order to **magnify** God's name."*

- Two Guiding Greats:
 - The Great **Commandment**
 - *Matthew 22:36-40* 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' **(worship)** 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' **(service)** 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."
 - The Great **Commission**
 - *Matthew 28:19-20* And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations **(evangelism)**, baptizing them **(Fellowship)** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things **(Discipleship)** that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

"A great **commitment** to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission will build a **great** church."

- One Great Example Church
 - *Acts 2:41-47* Then those who gladly received his word **(evangelism)** were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine **(discipleship)** and **fellowship**, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers... 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need **(service)**. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God **(worship)** and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Three Great Truths

- I cannot really love whom I do not know – Worshipping God
- I will not continually serve whom I do not love – Loving others
- I will not faithfully share what I have not experienced – Going to the world

Commitment 2008 - Keep this in your Bible

I purpose to love God more by getting to know him better - discipleship commitment (How?)

- Time with God, his word and in conversation (prayer) – personal commitment
- Time with God's people for instruction and fellowship – corporate commitment

I purpose to love others more by getting to know them better – fellowship commitment (How?)

- Time in a group to be encouraged and to encourage – involvement commitment
- Time in a group to be better informed of the needs – information commitment
- Time in a group to be challenged by good teaching – instructional commitment

I purpose to serve others better by a specific commitment to my local church – ministry commitment (where?) that is up to me and the Lord!

I purpose to have a greater impact by maintaining contact – evangelism commitment (How?)

- I will walk across the room – your closets contacts
- I will go across the street – your circle of influence
- I will pray around the world - your limitless influence
- I will give according to grace - God's limitless supply

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