

***Sermon Title:* "UNDERSTANDING THE GREAT COMMISSION"**

Date: January 14, 2024 - Matthew 28:16-20

Central Idea: Evangelism should be *normal*—in our own lives and in our church. Is it normal for you to share the Good News?

Introduction: Isn't it amazing that we have trouble sharing such wonderful news? God has established who and how we should evangelize. God Himself is at the heart of the *evangel*—the good news we are spreading. Ultimately, we should evangelize because of God.

I. Culture of Evangelism

This means that we have an expectation that Christians will share the gospel with others, talk about doing that, pray about it, and regularly plan and work together to help each other evangelize. We want evangelism to be normal—in our own lives and in our church.

II. Challenge of Evangelism, Matthew 28:16-20

1. Authority, v. 18
2. Go—This word is a present participle "going," v. 19.
3. Make Disciples, v. 19
 - (1) Baptizing, v. 19
 - (2) Teaching, v. 20
4. "I am with you always!" v. 20

III. The Church and Evangelism

The local church is the normal means God has given us to fulfill the Great Commission.

Conclusion: Here are some specific ideas to aid in our sharing of the gospel:

1. Pray
2. Use the Bible
3. Be clear
4. Provoke self-reflection
5. Use the church

We know that obedience to the Great Commission will not be easy, and we know it will be costly. But we also know that it will be worth it!