

Text, Context and The Soul
The Divine Conspiracy #9

**How We Can Actually Teach People
To Do The Things That Jesus Said.**

Three Parts of The Great Commission



1. Make disciples, apprentices to Jesus in kingdom living.
2. Submerge them in the Trinitarian life that flows in the community of disciples of Jesus. Baptism symbolizes this.
3. Teach these disciples to do — showing them how to do — everything Jesus said.

The “VIM” Principle

- Vision
- Intention
- Means



APPLYING ‘VIM’ TO GROUPS

- We have seen how it applies to individuals.
- Local groups, through their leaders, must have the appropriate vision, intention and means implemented in the group.
- That would be achieved if the great commission were the “mission statement.”

DISTRACTION!!!!!! #1

- **The typical church, denomination, parachurch does not intend, and does not have the vision of implementing, the whole Great Commission.**
- **They do not come into existence on that basis.**
- **Usually they do not know this.**

DISTRACTION!!!!!! #2

- **Leith anderson's statement**
- **“Denominational” distinctives**
- **“Protest-ants”**
- **Managing to survive.**
- **Looking good**
- **Performances**

THE TREASURE AND THE VESSEL—2 COR. 4:7

- **Stop mistaking the vessel for the treasure.**
- **The treasure: “Christ and him crucified.”
1 Cor. 2:2**
- **Hold our ‘distinctives’ only for the Christ that is in them.**
- **Focus entirely on what Christ is doing with you.**

WE SIMPLY DON'T LIVE THE “VIM”

- **With respect to being disciples.**
- **With respect to expectation of obedience—and that means...**
- **Inner transformation.**
- **So our groups are filled with and often led by people who just mean, angry, contemptuous.**
- **But really trying to be nice.**

EXAMINE OUR “GOSPEL”

- **What is actually heard as our message?
Sin management only?**
- **Return to the new testament and soak ourselves in the gospel of the kingdom**
- **We don't need to talk a lot about it, just do it.**

DISCIPLESHIP NATURALLY BEGINS TO EMERGE

- **Individuals will begin to respond along the lines of Luke 14:25-35, John 8:31-34, 13:34-35, 15:8.**
- **Gradually a sense of “this is what we do” may spread over the group.**
- **Problems with renegotiating the contract.**

THE “M” IN THE “VIM”

- The problem of finding the MEANS to carry out the INTENTION to live in the VISION.
- The first means is to be disciples ourselves, and to be constantly growing along the lines pointed out above:

THE 3 THINGS TO BE LEARNED AS A DISCIPLE

1. How to do what Jesus explicitly commanded.
2. How to live life in areas where there is not explicit command.
3. How to act with the power in the kingdom.

THESE ARE NOT REALLY SEPARABLE!

DISCIPLES IMMERSSED IN THE TRINITY

- **Holding our programs loosely and relying upon the presence and action of God in our midst.**
- **What you do matters little as long as you are disciples in the presence of God.**
- **A primary test and opportunity for discipleship is group friction.**

AIM YOUR ACTIVITIES AT LEARNING TO DO ALL....

- **Openly discuss this as an aim.**
- **Work closely with those who have decided to do it.**
- **With instruction, listening, direction, feedback.**
- **For example: Learning to bless those who curse you.**

ANNOUNCE PUBLICALLY

- **That you do teach people how to do what Jesus said.**
- **Put a sign to this effect in front of your church.**
- **State it on your bulletins and letterheads.**
- **Put it on your web-site, etc. etc.**

REMEMBER TO LOVE THOSE NOT “WITH IT”

- **It will take time for many to understand.**
- **And when they do, they won't want it.**
- **Discipleship was not in their contract with your group.**
- **Remember the Parable of the Sower.**