

# The Original Commandment

By Craig Cooper

Matthew 22:37-39 lists the two greatest commandments Jesus gave us.

*Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

2000 years later after Jesus spoke these words they are still the 2 greatest commandments. But these two commandments were not the first or original commandment given to man. There was another commandment that preceded man's sin. These two great commandments were necessary to give because of man's sin. Before Adam and Eve fell to sin they naturally did these 2 commandments with out being told.

So what was the original commandment?

*Gen. 1:27-28 (KJV) <sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. <sup>28</sup>And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

This command is still valid today. It is very informative because it shows what was the original intent God had for man before the fall. Jesus came to earth to restore to man the capacity for purpose that he had before the fall. So it is very important that we study these two verses and find out what our original purpose was!

## 4 Parts

There are 4 parts to this command.

1. Fruitful
2. Multiply (and replenish)
3. Subdue
4. Dominion

God has commanded us to be *fruitful, multiply, subdue*, and take *dominion*. The order here is important and intentional. Each of the parts builds on one another so that we can take dominion.

## 1. Fruitful

God expects us to be fruitful. Many Christians think that they can just sit around and wait on Jesus to come back. This is opposite of the expectations given us in the Bible. The Bible is very clear that God expects us to be fruitful in 2 areas:

1. Fruit in Ourselves (Maturity)
2. Fruit in Others (Ministry)

### Fruit in Ourselves - (Maturity)

*Rom. 6:20-22 (KJV) <sup>20</sup>For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. <sup>21</sup>What fruit [bad fruit] had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup>But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit [good fruit] unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

What does the Bible mean when it says fruit? It means the 9 things found in the following verses that the Holy Spirit develops in us. We also call this fruit character.

*Gal. 5:22-26 (NIV) <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup>Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*

### Fruit in Others – (Ministry)

*Rom. 1:11-13 (KJV) <sup>11</sup>For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; <sup>12</sup>That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. <sup>13</sup>Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.*

Paul was desiring to help the Romans develop fruit in their lives. When we help others grow in the Lord it produces fruit in their lives. This is called developing fruit in others. It is what we are all to do. We need each other to grow and develop. It is very hard to develop fruit on your own. God wants us to be involved in each other's lives.

In the Western world we place a major emphasis on gaining knowledge as an end unto itself. But the Bible does not do this. It's emphasis is on bearing fruit that produces maturity in us. Knowledge is a part of this but not an end. That's why it is so important to apply the Word in your life, not just learn it.

*James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

You can have *knowledge* without *fruit*. But you can't have *fruit* without *knowledge*.

## **2. Multiply**

Definition of Multiplication: *Multiplication is helping someone else walk in fruit of their own using yourself as the template.* You can also call this reproduction.

After we are fruitful He then wants us to multiply it! But we only want to multiply after we are fruitful. Why does it need to be in this order? You can multiply anything – good or evil. We only want to multiply God's goodness which is called holiness!

You can teach someone anything, but you can't multiply something into somebody you are not. You can *talk* about it, but that does *impart* into them. You can only impart what you have – which is fruit – good or bad.

God does not want us to always stay on the receiving end. He wants us to reach out and minister to others just like others ministered to us. If we stay on the receiving end all of the time we are no different than being a natural baby that never gets off the bottle. Many Christians are still bottle fed.

God from the beginning has told us to be a *producer*. The Western church is all about being a *consumer*

God from the beginning has told us to be a *blessing*. The Western church is all about being *blessed*.

Multiplication means that you take the time to help other people walk with God like He is teaching you to walk with Him. It is pouring your knowledge and life into others so that they can also grow and mature. You won't reach your full potential as a Christian without multiplication. It is natural to multiply – everything in creation multiplies. You know you have multiplied when there is someone who is walking in fruit of their own because of you.

## **3. Subdue**

Subduing is putting whatever keeps you from multiplying under your feet. Subduing is putting whatever keeps you from moving off of step 1 away from you. Subduing is putting those enemies under your feet – they can be

within or without. Subduing is cutting the root that is choking us and not just trimming the branches.

The greatest battle is not between who you are and what you used to be, but between who you are and what you can be. This is why the prophetic is so important. It reminds us and declares over us our potential. God is always calling us into a life that we never thought we could have on our own. Remember, God would never call you to something that He doesn't empower you to do.

God wants you to be victorious and an overcomer. But you have to fight some battles along the way. Victory is not just handed to you. God does not change your world from the outside in, but He changes your world from the inside out. He gives you a vision of what can happen so that it motivates you to overcome your circumstances. When your vision becomes greater than your circumstances you will break out of your life of containment!

*Eph. 3:20 (KJV) Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

Let the Holy Spirit inside of you give you the strength to overcome your circumstances and not give up.

#### **4. Dominion**

Dominion is when the Godly fruit that the Spirit of God has worked in you is affecting the world around you. This is a time of reaping from all of the hard work and planting that you have done.

Remember the steps to have dominion – Fruit, Multiply, Subdue, then Dominion. God is not going to give the earth to unfruitful and lazy folks. He is going to give the kingdom to fruitful, multiplying, and subduing people. We are kingdom minded people!

#### **Summary**

The best place for fruit to grow and multiply is in your small group. We challenge everyone to take an active part in your group. This month we are starting the Encounter cycle of our Growth Journey. It consists of Pre-Encounter lessons (done in the groups), an Encounter Weekend, and Post-Encounter classes on Monday night.

I want to challenge each of you to have an Encounter with Jesus! We want everyone to be changed because you are learning about Him, encountering Him, and becoming like Him! The Encounter process is designed to set people free to grow to their full potential as a disciple of Jesus.