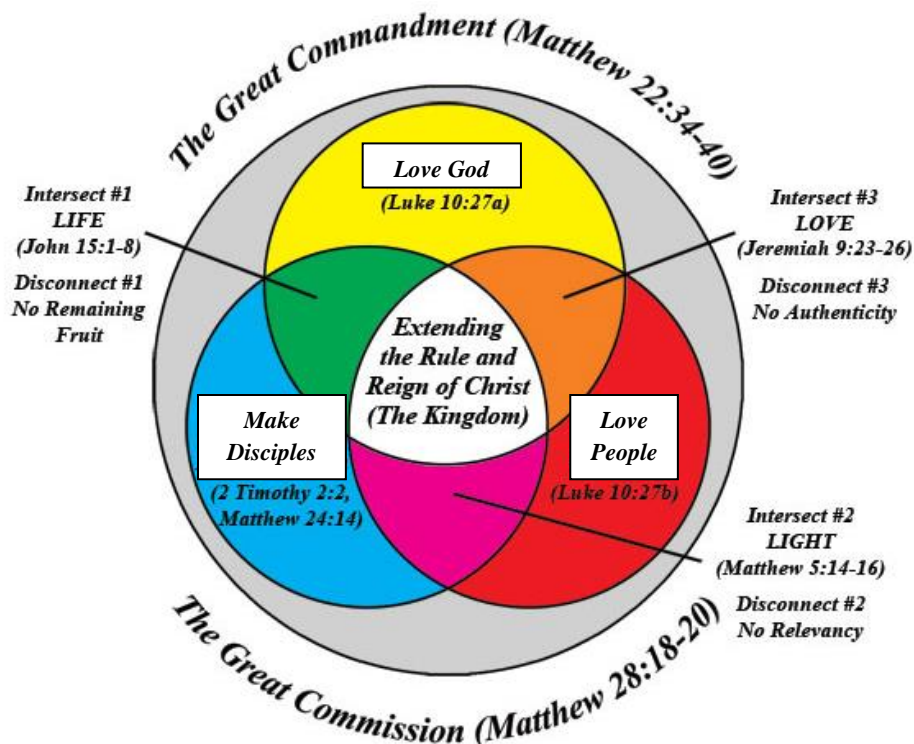


# Wholistic Ministry: Love God, Love People, Make Disciples



**Wholistic ministry** means living out the Great Commandments (Matthew 22:37-39) AND the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). That means we Love God AND Love People AND Make Disciples. These lifestyles should not be practiced apart from one another. Instead, they should all be connected.

**Loving God** – God is the maker, master and motivation of the church. Loving God comes from an ongoing personal and community experience with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Genuine faith results in brokenness, surrender, holiness, worship, and obedience (John 14:15-24). Does God have all of your heart, soul, mind and strength?

**Loving People** – The love that God’s people have for the poor, orphan, widow, and alien has biblically and historically been a distinguishing mark of following the One True God. Loving people requires proximity, time, and investment to restore people and communities to the way God originally intended (Luke 10:29-37). Are you loving your neighbor as yourself?

**Make Disciples** – Making disciples is the mission of the church. It begins with sharing the gospel but involves much more. Certainly teaching doctrine is involved, but discipleship is caught more than taught. Discipleship results from doing life together with someone else as you follow Jesus (2 Tim. 2:2; Phil. 4:9). Are you making disciples of all nations?

***As the church loves God it naturally exhibits the mark of the church  
(loving people), and embraces the mission of the church (making disciples).***

**Love** (*Intersect #3*) - If we love our neighbor by meeting his/her needs we show that our love for God is authentic (Jer. 9:23-26). Care for those in need is evidence of saving faith in Jesus Christ and love for God (James 2:14-17; 1 John 3:16-17). We are motivated to love those in need because we ourselves were shown mercy by God through Jesus Christ (Matt. 18:21-35; 2 Cor. 8:9). This mindset allows us to build relationships and receive from others. When we love the poor, it is as if we are showing love to Christ Himself (Matt. 25:34-40; Pr. 14:31).

- How have you seen someone's love for God spill over into them loving others?
  - *DETEST (Disconnect #3) – No Authenticity*
  - If we're not concerned about the needs of others then we do not truly understand that we, being poor and needy, are saved only through the free, yet costly grace of Jesus (Jas. 1:9-10).
- Why is it so important for our love for God to be the motivation for loving others?
  - If our love for God is not the motivation for our mercy and love to our neighbor then we risk becoming self-righteous – either patronizing toward the poor or bitter toward the rich.
  - If we are not empowered by the Holy Spirit to love and serve, we will burn out or turn our ministry into an idol.
  - If we try to make disciples and love God without loving people then we're imperialistic and people will reject the gospel

**Life** (*Intersect #1*) – If we Love God and Make Disciples we will grow in our own faith and we will bear lasting fruit. (John 15:1-8) Our love for God compels us (Acts 16:25-34) and the Holy Spirit empowers us (Acts 1:8) to make disciples. The process of passing on our Christian faith requires that we know what we believe and we live it out for others to see (2 Tim. 2:2; Phil. 4:9).

- How has discipling someone caused you to grow in your faith?
  - *DEATH (Disconnect #1) – No Remaining Fruit*
  - If we're not making disciples then we will keep the lost from knowing Christ, and stunt our personal growth in Christ, and the growth of our people.
  - If we're trying to love people and make disciples, but not connecting them to the gospel and the love of God then we're like any other Cause, religion, or self-help group
  - If we don't stay connected to God then we have no motivation, nor power to make disciples.

**Light** (*Intersect #2*) - If we share the love of God in word and deed then the gospel message is relevant (Matt. 5:14-16). Our love for people motivates us to share the gospel with them (Rom. 9:1-3; 10:14-15). When we love people by meeting their needs, it opens the door to the gospel message (John 9:1-7; 35-41).

- *DARK (Disconnect #2) – No Relevancy*
- If we do not show concern for people's needs then they won't care to hear our message. We'll come across as colonists!
- If we try to love God and love people without making disciples then we're off mission and eternally irrelevant. We will lose our distinctiveness and be absorbed into the culture around us.
- Why is sharing the gospel with someone the most loving thing you can do for them?
  - If we don't speak the words of the gospel when we serve then we're not giving people what they need most (2 Cor. 4:16-18).