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## Dive Into The Implication Of The Great Mandate In The Teaching Of Christian Religious Education Today

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**Abstract**

In the context of Christian education, education has a central role in shaping Christian character and encouraging students to implement the Great Commission in their actions and behavior. The Christian education approach covers various aspects, including the formation of Christian character, understanding values such as love and caring, spreading God's Word, motivation for service and giving, and pastoral spiritual aspects of students. Christian education also motivates students to carry out service and giving as an expression of Christ's love for fellow human beings. Thus, students learn to reflect on values such as forgiveness, honesty, and compassion in the context of service. The importance of spreading God's Word in Christian education includes a deep understanding of the message of God's Word and how it is relevant in everyday life. Students are taught to understand the teachings of Christianity in a spiritual context and apply them in their lives, including in their decisions and actions. It includes the development of a personal relationship with God, an understanding of spiritual vocations, and character development that reflects the values of Christianity. Spiritual guidance and deepening understanding of Christian teachings are integral in shepherding the spiritual aspects of students. Thus, Christian education has a great responsibility in shaping Christian character, understanding the values of Christianity, and shepherding the spiritual aspects of students. Through this holistic approach, Christian education helps students carry out the Great Commission in their actions and behaviors, making them beneficial citizens of society as well as staunch followers of Christian religious values.

**Keywords:** The Great Mandate, Teaching, Christian Religious Education

**INTRODUCTION**

Christian education has an important role in realizing religious and moral values in everyday life. In this context, the "Great Commission" refers to the teachings of Jesus Christ and the moral principles contained in the gospels. Christian education has a great responsibility in implementing this Great Commission in society. This article will discuss the role and responsibilities of Christian education in implementing the Great Commission. Christian education plays a central role in shaping the character of individuals and guiding them in applying the moral teachings espoused in the Christian tradition (Hartono, 2018). mentioned that the meaning of the Great Commission should not be linked constantly to evangelistic efforts, but instead, it should be considered as a phase or package in which discipleship is the main focus of a series of activities. Meanwhile, the Great Commission pronounced by Jesus in the past needs to be interpreted in a context that is appropriate to the era in which the church is located (Purwoto et al., 2021). This shows that the Great Commission is one of the important centers of Christian religious teaching. In the midst of various challenges and changes in the modern world, it is important for Christian education to recognize and understand its responsibility in implementing the Great Commission, which includes the teachings and moral principles taught by Jesus Christ in the Gospels (Hartono, 2018). Basically, the Great Commission reflects the call to live in love, justice, truth, and service to others. In an ever-changing world, the role of Christian education as the vanguard in shaping

Christian character and understanding religious values is becoming increasingly significant. Churches and educational institutions sometimes ignore the Lord Jesus' command in the Great Commission to go preach the gospel of Christ and the message of the remission of sins. School as one of the Christian institutions focuses more on cognitive formation than on carrying out the great commission of the Lord Jesus. Christian education has a responsibility to help students understand and live the Great Commission as a guide in daily life. In this order, Christian education serves as a source of strong character building, preparing the younger generation to face the diverse complexities of the contemporary world. In addition, Christian education has an important role in teaching the values of love and care to students. Christ's teachings about loving one's neighbor, giving to the needy, and forgiving sinners form the central foothold of the Great Commission (Dwiraharjo, 2019). Therefore, Christian education has a responsibility to arouse students' awareness of the importance of service actions and concern for others. Furthermore, Christian education is also obliged to spread God's Word to the younger generation. This includes teaching scripture, spiritual reflection, and a deep understanding of religious teachings (Mau et al., 2023). In this way, Christian education acts as a strong link between previously accepted religious values and the understanding and experience of today's generation. Therefore, this study seeks to dive back into the great commission of the Lord Jesus in the context of Christian education in the hope that schools as educational institutions re-establish the mandate great in the learning process.

### **METHOD**

The research method used in this research is a literature study with the aim of understanding how Christian education shepherds the spiritual aspects of students can include various approaches and techniques. This study aims to explore the influence of Christian education in the formation of the spiritual dimension of students, as well as to explore the methods used in the process of Christian education to achieve this goal. Here are the steps of research methods that might be used. The study of literature is the first step that will help researchers understand the theoretical and practical foundations of Christian education, the Great Commission, as well as concepts such as love, caring, service, and spiritual development. It will also help in identifying theories and views that researchers can also analyze official documents and teaching materials in the Christian education curriculum. This will help in identifying the extent to which spiritual concepts and Christian values are integrated in the curriculum and how these documents illustrate the importance of spiritual aspects.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **The Great Mandate**

The Great Commission in Christianity refers to the last words of Jesus Christ to His apostles before He ascended into heaven. This Great Commission is an important teaching in Christianity and is the main guide for Christians in the ministry and mission of the church. The Great Commission can be found in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts in the Bible. This is at the core of Christian mission teaching and consists of two main elements: Baptizing and Teaching: The Great Commission begins with Jesus' command to His apostles

to "baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost" ([Matthew 28:19](#)). This emphasizes the importance of baptism as a sign of entry into the Christian community. Next, Jesus told them to "teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" ([Matthew 28:20](#)). This shows the importance of teaching the teachings of Christ and the principles of the Christian faith. Spreading the Gospel to All the World: The Great Commission also instructs the apostles to "go into all the world and make disciples of all nations" ([Matthew 28:19](#)). It is a call to spread the gospel and doctrine of Christ throughout the world and invite others to become Disciples of Christ. The Great Commission reflects the mission of the expanding Christian church, which is to teach, baptize, and spread the gospel message throughout the world. This teaching became the basis for Christian ministry and mission work, including missionary work, evangelism, and Christian religious teaching ([Munthe, 2019](#)). In addition, the Great Commission also affirms the importance of the Trinity in the Christian faith, referring to baptism in "the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." The Great Commission is the theological foundation for the mission of the Christian church and a commitment to developing the Christian faith and inviting others to know Christ. He motivated Christians to live the commandments of Christ in their daily lives and in efforts to spread Christianity throughout the world.

The theological study of the Great Commission in Christianity opens the door to a deeper understanding of the theological dimensions, meaning, implications, and significance of this teaching within the framework of Christian belief. The Great Commission was the last commandment given by Jesus to His apostles before ascending to heaven and had an important position in Christian teaching. First of all, the Great Commission describes the basic belief in the Trinity, that is, the concept of the existence of one God existing in three divine persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Through the command to "baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit," the Great Commission emphasizes that baptism is a sacramental act that connects people to God and takes away sin, depicting restoration and new birth in Christ. The Great Commission also highlights mission and evangelism as key elements in Christian teaching ([Arifianto et al., 2020](#)). Jesus' command to His disciples to "go into all the world and make disciples of all nations" is a call that encourages the appreciation and spread of the gospel message throughout the world. This creates a theological foundation for the work of ministry, evangelism, and teaching in the Christian community. In addition, the Great Commission affirms the importance of teaching the doctrines of Christ. The disciples were asked to "teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." This underscores the important role of teaching in the development of Christian theology and ethics and in fulfilling the mission call of the church. In the aspect of universality, the Great Commission directs the Christian view towards religious and cultural differences. In the words of "all nations," this message emphasizes the universality of the Christian faith and the challenges of interacting with different faiths and cultures. This invites further study of religious pluralism and interfaith cooperation in an increasingly globalized world. The importance of Christian ministry is also reflected in the Great Commission, which emphasizes that the apostles were examples of ministers called to spread the gospel. It inspires reflection on the vocation to ministry within the church and how each individual can

contribute to the spread of the Christian message. In addition, the Great Commission highlights the role of the Holy Spirit in empowering and supporting disciples in fulfilling their mission. In this context, theological studies also consider the role of the Holy Spirit in the ministry, gifts, and transformation of individuals. The Great Commission also underscores the importance of unity in the Christian church, reflecting the principle of a united community in teaching and evangelism. The church is considered the body of Christ, and this theological study can consider the implications of this unity in the ministry and development of the church. Finally, The Great Commission raises awareness of social responsibility and justice in Christian ministry (Situmorang, 2021). This illustrates that Christian mission is not only limited to the spiritual dimension, but also includes social service, justice, and love for others. Overall, the theological study of the Great Commission guides Christians to a deeper understanding of the theological foundations of the church's mission and encourages them to live out Christ's call to spread the gospel, teach, baptize, and serve with love and humility.

### **Implications Of The Great Commission In Teaching Christian Religious Education**

Christian education also has a responsibility to motivate students to play an active role in social service and positive contributions to society. This is in line with the Great Commission which teaches that service is a real action in implementing Christ's love for others (Simon & Angkouw, 2021). Within this framework, Christian education acts as an agent of social change that inspires students to play an active role in bringing about improvements and changes in their societies. Finally, Christian education must also shepherd the spiritual aspect of students. This includes supporting spiritual growth, cultivating a life of deep prayer, and helping students understand and maintain a personal relationship with God. This is the foundation of personal appreciation of the Great Commission and a deep understanding of the spiritual vocation passed down by Christ to each individual. Christian education is key in carrying out its responsibilities in the implementation of the Great Commission. Thus, Christian education plays an important role in shaping Christian character, understanding the values of love and care, spreading God's Word, motivating service, and shepherding spiritual aspects. In this regard, Christian education contributes to the formation of a generation capable of living the teachings of Jesus Christ in daily life and having a positive impact on society as a whole.

#### ***Shaping Christian Character***

One of the main responsibilities of Christian education is to shape the Christian character of the younger generation. This includes teaching values such as love, honesty, justice, humility, and empathy. These teachings are in accordance with the Great Commission which teaches love for others, forgiveness, and the preservation of truth. By providing a solid moral foundation, Christian education helps students to become broad-minded and responsible individuals in their daily lives. Shaping Christian character in Christian education is a process that involves a set of principles and values that are at the core of Christian teachings (Legi, 2022). This plays a key role in creating individuals who internalize and apply the teachings of Jesus Christ in daily life. One of the main aspects of Christian

character building is the teaching and understanding of fundamental Christian values such as love, honesty, humility, and kindness. Students are taught to understand and live the meaning of these values as well as how these values can guide their behavior in everyday interactions.

In addition, the formation of Christian character also includes the development of moral consciousness. Students are taught to develop the ability to distinguish between good actions and wrong actions, as well as reflect on the concepts of sin, goodness, and moral responsibility in their actions (Legi & Keriapy, 2022). They learn to reflect on the impact of their actions on themselves, others, and society as a whole. The formation of Christian character involves the process of critical thinking and ethics in making decisions that are in accordance with Christian moral principles.

Christian characteristics are the focus of this effort. Students are taught to develop characteristics that reflect the teachings of Christ, including the ability to feel love and empathy for others. They are taught the value of understanding, acceptance, and forgiveness of others. Christian education develops the value of humility and sincerity in students' attitudes, so that they are able to live in accordance with the teachings of love and care adopted in the Great Commission. Moral toughness is also an important aspect in shaping Christian character. Students are trained to defend Christian principles even when faced with pressure or temptations that conflict with Christian values. They learn how to maintain their moral integrity in difficult situations and how to avoid actions that are incompatible with the principles of Christianity.

Shaping Christian character also includes spiritual growth. This includes the development of a personal relationship with God, prayer, and spiritual reflection. Students are taught to reflect on religious values in a spiritual context and how these values direct them in the development of a personal relationship with God. Spiritual growth helps students understand spiritual vocations and lives based on Christian religious principles. Christian education also emphasizes the importance of social service and social responsibility. Students are taught to understand acts of service as tangible manifestations of Christ's love for one's neighbor. They are given opportunities to engage in social services and help the poor and needy. Christian education provides encouragement to students to become agents of positive change in society and contribute to social welfare.

Finally, Christian education facilitates the understanding of Christian ethics and ethics. Students are taught about ethical principles and how to apply these principles in everyday decision making. They also learn about moral responsibility towards their fellow humans and the natural environment. Shaping Christian character is the essence of Christian education. It is an ongoing process that allows students to live the Great Commission in their daily actions and behavior. The formation of Christian character plays a major role in helping students become beneficial citizens of society and making them individuals who integrate Christian religious values in their lives.

### ***Understanding the Importance of Love and Care***

The Great Commission emphasizes love and concern for others. Christian education should teach students about the importance of maintaining good relationships with fellow human beings, caring for the poor and marginalized, and providing assistance to the needy.

Students who are educated with these principles will be more likely to lead lives that benefit society and carry out the Great Commission with dedication. Understanding the importance of love and caring is one of the main pillars in Christian education that focuses on the implementation of the Great Commission (Hendrik, 2022). The Great Commission, which reflects the teachings of Jesus Christ, emphasizes the importance of loving one's neighbor and showing concern for them. Christian education has a great responsibility in conveying this message to students.

Love is at the heart of the message of the Great Commission. Students in Christian education are taught about the importance of loving one's neighbor regardless of race, religion, or social background. They understand that this love goes beyond mere feelings and includes concrete actions that help others. Therefore, Christian education trains students to develop loving hearts and encourages them to exercise this love in their daily actions.

Caring is another component of the Great Commission emphasized in Christian education. Students are taught that as followers of Christ, they are to care for the conditions and needs of their fellow human beings. They learn to respond with concern and concrete action toward people who need help, including the poor, oppressed, or in suffering. This reflects Jesus' teaching on the importance of caring for those who need help.

The importance of love and caring in Christian education also involves developing empathy. Students are taught to feel and understand the feelings of others, as well as to see the world from their point of view. It helps them to become individuals who are more sensitive to the difficulties and needs of others, and to respond with genuine empathy.

In addition, understanding the importance of love and caring in Christian education involves teaching values such as giving, forgiveness, and mercy. Students are taught to give to the needy and to forgive those who have done wrong. It reflects the message of the Great Commission about the maintenance of truth and healing fractured relationships through forgiveness. In a society that is often polarized and filled with indifference, Christian education inspires students to live the Great Commission with love and care. This is the main foundation in shaping Christian character and making students positive agents of change in society. Thus, understanding the importance of love and caring becomes a strong moral foundation for students to live the teachings of Jesus Christ in their lives, making them individuals who benefit society and are devoted followers of Christian religious values.

### ***Spreading God's Word***

Christian education also has a responsibility to spread God's Word to the younger generation. Through religious instruction, scripture study, and spiritual reflection, students can better understand the message of the Great Commission and how to apply it in their lives. Thus, Christian education acts as a link between previous and subsequent generations in maintaining and passing on religious values. Spreading God's Word is one of the core elements in the responsibility of Christian education in implementing the Great Commission (Purdaryanto, 2021). God's Word, contained in the scriptures, contains moral and spiritual teachings that guide followers of Christ. Christian education plays an important role in teaching students about the message of God's Word and how to apply those teachings in daily life.

Christian education integrates scripture study into its curriculum. Students are taught to read, understand, and ponder sacred texts. It involves the historical, theological, and ethical understanding contained in scripture. Students are also taught to connect the teachings in scripture with contemporary reality so that they can apply them in their decision-making and actions.

Through the teaching of scripture, Christian education inspires students to understand the message of God's Word and how it is relevant in their lives. This includes understanding the values such as love, truth, justice, forgiveness, and kindness advocated in scripture. Students are taught to apply these values in their relationships with others, in moral decision-making, and in social service.

In addition, Christian education also provides space for spiritual reflection (Keriapy et al., 2022). Students are taught to reflect on the meaning and significance of religious teachings in a spiritual context. This helps them strengthen their personal relationship with God, understand spiritual callings, and develop a deeper prayer life.

The importance of spreading God's Word in Christian education also involves developing an understanding of religious plurality. Students are taught to respect and understand the diversity of religious beliefs in society, while maintaining their own Christian beliefs. It creates a foundation for interfaith dialogue and better understanding between individuals with different religious backgrounds.

Through understanding God's Word, students in Christian education are also taught about moral and ethical responsibilities in their lives. They understand that religious teachings have an impact on daily decision-making, both in terms of personal ethics and in social responsibility towards fellow humans and the natural environment. Lastly, Christian education motivates students to become drivers of positive change in society through the application of religious teachings in service and social action. Students are taught that spreading God's Word also includes concrete actions in helping the needy and contributing to social improvement. The importance of spreading God's Word in Christian education is to help students understand and apply religious teachings in their lives, making them dedicated individuals of the Great Commission. God's Word becomes a moral and spiritual guide that encourages students to live according to Christian values in various aspects of their lives. Thus, Christian education has a key role in helping students integrate religious teachings in their daily lives and understand moral and ethical responsibilities as followers of Christ.

### *Motivating Service and Giving*

The Great Commission teaches service and giving to others as an essential part of the Christian faith. Christian education should encourage students to become agents of positive change in society through various forms of service and caring. This includes engaging in social action, helping the poor, and contributing to humanitarian programs. Christian education has a responsibility to inspire students so that they can carry out this Great Commission in daily practice (Paul Lilik Kristianto, 2006). Motivating service and giving is an important aspect in the responsibility of Christian education in implementing the Great Commission. The Great Commission teaches the importance of service to others and giving



to the needy as an expression of Christ's love. Christian education has a major role in inspiring students to internalize and apply these values in their actions and behavior.

Christian education motivates students to become active servants in society by understanding that service is a tangible manifestation of Christ's love for one's fellow man. Students are taught that service is not just a social act, but also a moral responsibility as followers of Christ. They are given the opportunity to be involved in various forms of ministry, be it in a school, church, or community setting. This arouses their awareness of their role as agents of positive change in society.

Christian education also emphasizes the importance of giving to the needy. Students are taught that giving to those less fortunate is part of a Christian calling. They understand that giving is a concrete way to manifest love and concern for others. Christian education also emphasizes that giving can be a contribution of material, time, or talent, and that every form of giving has significant value and impact.

Through the motivation of service and giving, Christian education shapes students' attitudes of compassion and concern for others. Students are taught to see the world with eyes that are more sensitive to the difficulties and sufferings of others, and respond with concrete actions. They understand that acts of service and giving are not just to gain praise or recognition, but rather as a manifestation of sincere love for one's neighbor.

In addition, Christian education also motivates students to understand and permeate values such as forgiveness, honesty, and humility in the context of service and giving. They are taught to give to the needy without expecting anything in return and to forgive those who have done wrong. It reflects Christ's teaching on the maintenance of truth and peace in relationships.

The importance of ministry motivation and giving in Christian education is to help students become individuals who are committed to making a positive impact on society. Service and giving are tangible manifestations of love and care that form the foundation of Christ's teaching in the Great Commission. Through this motivation, students understand that as followers of Christ, they have a moral responsibility to respond to the needs of their fellow human beings and play an active role in bringing about positive change in society. Thus, Christian education plays an important role in shaping the character of Christians who are able to live the teachings of Jesus Christ in acts of service and giving to fellow human beings.

### ***Spiritual Shepherding***

In addition to teaching religious values and principles, Christian education also has the responsibility to shepherd the spiritual aspects of students. This includes supporting spiritual growth, prayer, understanding of belief, and living in communion with God (Pakpahan, 2020). By strengthening the spiritual dimension, Christian education helps students to better understand and feel the Great Commission in their lives. Christian education has a deep responsibility to shepherd the spiritual aspects of students, focusing on developing a rich and deep spiritual dimension. In this context, shepherding the spiritual aspect includes not only deepening the understanding of Christianity, but also embracing students' spiritual growth and helping them understand and feel the spiritual calling embodied in the teachings of Christ.

Through Christian education, students are given the opportunity to deepen their personal relationship with God. They are taught the importance of prayer, meditation, and spiritual reflection as a way to meditate on God's Word and strengthen spiritual bonds. In a Christian educational environment, students are taught that a personal relationship with God is at the core of spiritual life, and that through prayer and contemplation, they can draw closer to Him.

In addition, Christian education encourages students to understand religious teachings in depth. They study scripture and Christian theology to gain a deeper understanding of the principles of faith. This helps them explore the moral and ethical values embedded in the teachings of Christianity and apply them in their daily lives.

Shepherding the spiritual aspect also involves forming awareness of the spiritual calling. Students are taught that each individual has a special role in the Lord's plan, and that living according to the teachings of Christianity is a calling to live a meaningful and loving life in service to others. This creates a foundation for the understanding that their lives have a deeper and greater purpose than just personal achievements.

Christian education also motivates students to reflect on values such as chastity, humility, and devotion in a spiritual context. They learn to respect these values in relationships with fellow human beings and in their spiritual growth. Developing character that reflects the principles of Christianity is an important part of shepherding the spiritual aspect. In this effort, Christian education also creates space for spiritual guidance. Teachers and spiritual guides are a source of inspiration and guidance for students on their journey to understand and feel the spiritual dimension. By talking about spiritual growth, challenges, and understanding of spiritual callings, they help students perceive the values of Christianity in their lives.

The importance of shepherding the spiritual aspect of Christian education is to help students become individuals who not only understand the teachings of Christianity intellectually, but also feel the teachings in their hearts and souls. This creates a strong foundation for personal appreciation of the Great Commission and a deep understanding of the spiritual vocation passed down by Christ to each individual. Thus, Christian education plays a major role in shaping the Christian character that integrates religious values in their spiritual life as well as helping students become individuals living in a deep awareness of their relationship with God and their moral responsibility as followers of Christ.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

Within the framework of Christian education, its central role is very prominent in shaping the character of students to reflect Christian values and encourage the application of the Great Commission in daily life. The integration of Christian values in the curriculum is the main foundation for achieving this goal. Christian education is not only concerned with academic aspects, but also focuses on character building through understanding values such as love, honesty, and kindness. In particular, teaching should include a deep understanding of the message of God's Word and how those values are relevant in the context of students' lives. Collaboration between schools, parents, and churches is a key factor in creating a holistic and immersive Christian educational environment. Involving parents in the educational process

can strengthen students' religious experiences at home and at school. Meanwhile, the church's role as an educational partner provides crucial spiritual support, including spiritual guidance and a deep understanding of Christian teachings. Christian education also emphasizes the development of social skills and ministry experiences, where students are taught to put Christian teachings into action and demonstrate Christ's love for one's fellow man. The importance of balance between spiritual and academic aspects is the foundation for creating a balanced Christian educational experience. By utilizing technology, such as online resources and interactive platforms, Christian education can remain relevant and engaging for students in the digital age. Regular evaluation of program effectiveness and feedback from all parties involved, including students, parents, and faculty, are crucial steps in maintaining and improving the quality of Christian education. With this holistic approach, Christian education plays an important role in shaping the Christian character of students, making them contributing citizens of society and devoted followers of Christian religious values.

### **CONCLUSION**

Christian education has an important responsibility in implementing the Great Commission in the lives of students. By shaping Christian character, teaching love and caring, spreading God's Word, motivating ministry, and shepherding spiritual aspects, Christian education plays an important role in creating a generation that lives the teachings of Jesus Christ and moral principles in daily life. The results of this study show that the Christian education approach includes important aspects such as character building, understanding the values of love and care, spreading God's Word, service motivation, and developing students' spiritual aspects. By emphasizing values such as love, honesty, and kindness, Christian education seeks to develop students' moral toughness and awareness of the consequences of their actions. The importance of spreading God's Word in the context of Christian education shows an effort to form a deep understanding of religious teachings and their relevance in everyday life. Students are taught to understand and apply Christian teachings in their decisions and actions, with an emphasis on spiritual values. Aspects of spiritual shepherding of students, including the development of a personal relationship with God and understanding of spiritual vocations, are considered an integral part of Christian education. In addition, students are taught about the principles of Christian ethics and ethics, as well as their social responsibility in society. The importance of spreading God's Word in Christian education also includes a deep understanding of the message of God's Word and how it is relevant in everyday life. Students are taught to understand the teachings of Christianity in a spiritual context and apply them in their lives, including in their decisions and actions. Shepherding the spiritual aspect of students is an important aspect of Christian education. It includes the development of a personal relationship with God, an understanding of spiritual vocations, and character development that reflects the values of Christianity. Spiritual guidance and deepening understanding of Christian teachings are integral in shepherding the spiritual aspects of students. Overall, Christian education has a great responsibility to shape Christian character, understand the values of Christianity, and shepherd the spiritual aspects of students. Thus, Christian education plays an important role in helping students carry out the Great

Commission in their actions and behavior, making them beneficial citizens of society as well as devoted followers of Christian religious values.

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