

All In | The Grid Day #21 (Youth)

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In the lessons before this, we've learned that accepting the grid of Jesus leads to trusting his power to save us from our sins. But a lot of people falsely believe that becoming a Christian just means going to church or identifying as a Christian if someone at school asks about their faith. Jesus had something much deeper and more life changing in mind for his disciples, and he made it clear in his Great Commission:

Matthew 28:18-20 *Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

This simple passage gives us three signs that you're "all in" with your pursuit of God.

Getting baptized is a sign you're "all in"

When Jesus told his disciples to baptize new believers, he was calling for more than some weird water-dunking ritual. Baptism is a symbol of going "all in" with faith. When Jesus' disciples baptized people, they completely immersed them in water. This was a symbol of dying with Christ (being dunked under water), and rising again to new life, just like Jesus rose from the dead (being raised up out of the water.) This demonstrated that they believed in the death and resurrection of Christ, and were willing to follow him with everything they had.

The second sign of an all-in faith comes from verse 20:

Matthew 28:20 *"Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

A Christ-centered life is a sign you're "all in"

Sadly, many Christians today take God's grace and use it as an excuse to sin more. They cheapen the work of Christ on the cross and take his sacrifice for granted, continuing to live a "me first" lifestyle and ignore the commands of God. But Jesus told his disciples to teach the new believers to "obey all the commands".

Why does Jesus tell his disciples to obey all of his commands if they are already saved? You see, the gospel of grace doesn't teach that good works are now irrelevant and useless. It's actually the exact opposite: once we are saved, we are made new on the inside, and we are free to choose to live God's way. We no longer *have* to choose sin, but we are free to do all the good things that God has set in front of us. Paul talks about this in Ephesians:

Ephesians 2:10 *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

Isn't that incredible? Before we were saved, we were in bondage to the sinful desires of our hearts and our minds.

We couldn't escape our selfishness or jealousy or anger, or our unkind thoughts toward the rude girl in class. But when God saves us by his grace, we no longer have to think those thoughts. Instead, we are able to do the good works that God has already planned for us. Living in obedience to Jesus — living all-in for him — is one of the main ways that God gives us real joy, and it is our truest expression of freedom.

Making disciples is a sign you're "all in"

When Jesus commanded his disciples to make disciples, it was not a new concept to them. Three years earlier, when Jesus first met his disciples, he was already talking about their mission.

Mark 1:16-18 *One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" And they left their nets at once and followed him.*

Jesus called fishermen instead of Pharisees for a simple reason: he wanted regular people – not "professionals" – to go make disciples. A story from [Acts 8](#) proves this point even further. A great persecution broke out against the early church, and everyone except the apostles were scattered throughout the region. Here's what it says next:

Acts 8:4 *But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went.*

Did you catch the hidden lesson in that verse? The believers who were scattered "preached the Good News". And who was scattered? Everyone except the apostles. That means regular people spread the message of Jesus, not professionals. That's how God still wants it today. If you're a Christian, God is calling you to personally walk with someone and help them pursue God.

What about you? Where do you stand in your pursuit of God? Are you "all in" yet? Use the image below to identify where you stand, and make a commitment to move forward if you haven't fully obeyed the Great Commission.

Discussion Questions:

1. Tell us about a time you went "all in" for some hobby or activity. How did that change the way you lived?
2. Read [Matthew 28:18-20](#). What is baptism, and why does God want us to do it? Why do you think people hesitate to be baptized?
3. Read [Matthew 28:18-20](#) again. What comes after baptism?
4. The Bible talks about how obedience to sin leads to death. Think of a time when you willingly decided to keep sinning, and where that led you. What words would you use to describe that experience?
5. Think of a time when you decided to obey Jesus. Describe what you did and how that affected you.
6. Read [Galatians 5:1](#). How is the obedience Jesus is talking about different from slavery to the Law?
7. Give some examples of what a "Christ-centered" life might look like today?
8. Look at [Matthew 28:18-20](#) once more. What is Jesus' basic command? To whom is this command given? Do you think it applies to us today? Explain.