



# A White Horse Inn Survey of The Great Commission

*Approximately seventy people were interviewed for this survey at the 2010 International Christian Retail and Sales convention in St. Louis, Missouri. The majority of the results were obtained by questionnaire, and a limited number of individuals agreed to an "on air" recording of their responses to these survey questions (broadcast date: Dec 19, 2010).*

The most important task of the church today is the transformation of our culture.

- 15%** Agree
- 81%** Disagree
- 4%** Unsure

*Christians are not called to transform the culture, but rather to preach, baptize, and make disciples (Matt 28:19-20, 1Cor 1:20-25, Gal 3:27, Acts 6:7; 14:21; 18:11, Col 3:16, 1Thes 4:11-12).*

The most important way of converting non-Christians is preaching, along with the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

- 9%** Agree
- 89%** Disagree
- 2%** Unsure

*Jesus taught that we are to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matt 28:19-20). And Paul wrote that "it pleased god through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe" (1Cor 1:21; see also Rom 10:14-15, 2Tim 4:2, 1Cor 9:16).*

It's more important to "be the gospel" to others, rather than to preach to them.

- 69%** Agree
- 23%** Disagree
- 8%** Unsure

*We cannot be the gospel. The gospel is the good news about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus (1Cor 15:1-5). Though we may do good works to win the respect of outsiders (Col. 4:5, 1Thes 4:12, 1Tim 3:7), these good works are not "the gospel." The Christian gospel, because it is a completed act in history, is something that must be proclaimed: Acts 5:42; 6:2; 8:12; 8:35; 13:48-49; 14:21, Rom 10:14-15, 1Pet 1:12, 1Tim 4:13, 2Tim 2:8, Col 1:23.*

The most important thing we need to communicate to our kids is that God is always there when we need him.

- 27%** Agree
- 73%** Disagree

*This is one of the principle tenants of what Christian Smith calls "moralistic therapeutic deism." The most important thing Christians should communicate to their children is the Christian gospel: Rom 1:16-17, 1Cor 1:18-25, 1Cor 15:1-5, Phil 3:8-16.*

Christians should see the church as a resource provider, and themselves as self-feeders who make use of those resources.

- 30%** Agree
- 60%** Disagree
- 10%** Unsure

*Pastors and elders are called to shepherd the people of God, to feed the sheep, etc. Christians themselves are called to take personal responsibility for their own growth and maturity, but this should not be done without pastoral oversight: John 21:15-17, Eph 4:11, Heb 13:17, 1Pet 5:1-3, 1Tim 4:16.*

Getting saved has nothing to do with joining a church.

**92%** Agree

**8%** Disagree

*We are saved by grace alone through faith alone on account of Christ alone. However, in the New Testament believers express their faith in the context of a local church where the word is preached, the sacraments are administered, and where elders disciple those entrusted to their care, and exercise discipline when necessary: Acts 2:40-47, Heb 10:25; 13:17, 1Pet 5:1-3, 1Tim 4:16.*

Spiritual disciplines and regular church attendance are essential ingredients to becoming right with God.

**38%** Agree

**54%** Disagree

**8%** Unsure

*We are made right with God solely by the work of Christ. Christ lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died, and this right standing before God is credited to us by faith alone. Attending church or living consistently with one's profession of faith is not an essential ingredient to justification, but rather a fruit of it: Rom 4:4-5, 1Cor 1:30, Rom 12:1-2.*

In making disciples, spiritual disciplines and/or personal devotions are *more* important than weekly church attendance.

**51%** Agree

**37%** Disagree

**12%** Unsure

*New Testament spirituality is primarily centered around the regular gathering of believers under teachers and pastors and elders for the discipleship new converts, the preaching of the word for general edification, and the administration of the sacraments: Eph 4:11, Heb 13:17, 1Pet 5:1-3, 1Tim 4:16; 5:17, Tit 1:6-9, Acts 2:28, 1Cor 11:23-32.*

We live in an entertainment oriented culture, and so in order to make God relevant, we should make churches more upbeat, amusing and entertaining.

**25%** Agree

**71%** Disagree

**4%** Unsure

*According to the book of Exodus, the people of Israel were in an upbeat mood and were very entertained during the worship of the golden calf (Ex 32:17-20). Therefore, we should not worship God in a way that feels good to us, or seems right in our own eyes. Rather, our worship must be biblically based. Heb 12:28-29 says that Christians must "worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire" (see also Gen 4:1-5, Is 1:12-18, John 4:21-24). In particular, we need to be careful about the temptation of amusement. To "muse" means to think or reflect about something. A-musement literally means to be distracted from thinking. But our worship must be thoughtful, and reflective as we are to let the "word of Christ dwell in us richly" (Col 3:16).*

Kids are easily bored with content oriented lessons, so youth workers need to regularly attract them with new and exciting things.

**59%** Agree

**32%** Disagree

**9%** Unsure

*There is a great deal of content to the Christian religion that must be passed on to the next generation. Compared with previous eras, most of today's Christian youth would likely qualify as biblically illiterate. Wrestling with the meaning of Exodus or Isaiah may be less exciting than other youth activities, and therefore may be perceived as boring, but to avoid passing on the content of Scripture on that basis is simply a sign of worldliness and unfaithfulness. Christians are called to make disciples of all nations, and this includes the discipleship of their own children: Deut 6:4, Prov 1:1-9; 22:6, 1Cor 14:20, Eph 4:14; 6:1-4, 2Tim 3:14-15, Heb 5:11-14, 2John 4.*

know what you believe & why you believe it  
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