

CHAPTER 7  
**RESTORATION  
THROUGH  
THE GREAT  
REQUIREMENT**

**DHATI LEWIS**

Have you ever heard the saying, “Save the soul, and the rest will follow”? This unfortunately characterizes the historic actions of many American evangelicals. We’ve reduced the gospel to the Great Commission, “Go therefore and make disciples,” and the Great Commandment, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength ... and love your neighbor as yourself.” Yet, in all our evangelistic zeal, we have tragically missed a key component of the gospel: restoration through the Great Requirement.

We see the Great Requirement in Micah 6:8:

Mankind, he has told each of you what is good  
and what it is the Lord requires of you:  
to act justly,  
to love faithfulness,  
and to walk humbly with your God.

God requires us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with Him. The Great Requirement does not happen separately from our

commission and commandment. When each are done biblically, they are intricately tied together. Simply put, making disciples should be an expression of loving God and our neighbors and always should lead toward holistic restoration. In the same way, holistic restoration should be an expression of loving God and our neighbors and always should lead toward making disciples.

I serve as the lead pastor of Blueprint Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Our central mission is to unleash healthy people to do ministry where life exists. Over the years, I have seen firsthand the importance of addressing the many facets of life to make healthy disciples and to effectively engage your community. To holistically make disciples, we have to address aspects of the spiritual, emotional, economic, and social dynamics of our communities. At Send Network, we are using four pillars to build the framework of community restoration.

**SPIRITUAL PILLAR**

Historically, the spiritual pillar is where the church spends the majority of their focus. Too often, churches have shifted the jobs of community restoration to only nonprofits, ignoring the fact that God has uniquely positioned churches to serve and restore systemic and community brokenness. And while our pillars address more than spiritual needs, we want to ensure we don’t lose focus on the spiritual needs of the heart. Many evangelicals carry a fear that if we engage in social issues, we will end up losing the essence and core of the gospel. But our plan is to double down, by partnering with local seminaries to help undergird what local churches are doing to spiritually equip their members.

**EMOTIONAL PILLAR**

We are working to establish a counseling network to allow small churches and church plants to offer accessible counseling for their communities. I am a firm believer that our emotions are gifts from God to help us live fully in a tragic world. But the brokenness of our world often leaves people with festering, unattended wounds. We want to equip and empower local churches to play a role in walking their members, neighbors, and community members toward emotional health and healing.