

Who labored to reach the goal?

The WHOLE Church labored, both male and female! Someday, God’s initial commands to people (Gen. 1:28) and Christ’s final commission to the Church (Matt. 28:19-20) will be complete. At that time, we will all gather around God’s throne and celebrate crossing the finish line together as the whole Body of Christ.

Key Term

πάντα τὰ ἔθνη

panta ta ethne = ALL nations, tribes, peoples

“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation belongs to OUR GOD, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’” Revelation 7:9-10

This “great multitude” from every nation and from every generation, including both men and women, will raise their praise to “OUR GOD.” All nations can claim Jesus as their own Lord. His salvation extends to all nations!

There Is a Finish Line

In the Forever Family, the Church has done her job and reached the nations. Now the goal has been reached, the finish line has been crossed, the race is over. Nobody runs a race without a finish line. Jesus did not want us to run aimlessly in circles. He gave us a powerful message, a firm direction, and a clear end goal.

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” Matthew 24:14

Everyone Shares

“But only men are in heaven...” or “But only men are represented in Revelation 7:9-10...” or “But only men labored in the Great Commission...” or “But only men completed the Great Commission...” argues not a single, thinking, Bible-loving theologian! All people are needed to do their part to share the Good News.

Let’s review the situation. Men and women enjoyed a shared **creation** and **identity** as image bearers. They shared the same **blessings** and **responsibilities** (Gen. 1:28). Later they shared in the **Fall** and the **consequences** of sin. Later (praise Jesus!) both men and women shared in **salvation** since Jesus died for the sin of all. Additionally, God’s **spiritual gifts** were given to both male and female. God’s indwelling **Spirit** was poured out on both at Pentecost and up to today. Finally, because of their shared **labor** in the shared **task** of the Great Commission, both will enjoy a shared **inheritance**.

Practically speaking, some women will never be reached by a male evangelist, no matter how much he wants to share. Certain men will never be reached by Gospel-sharing females. Consider the beauty that God made *the family* to reach *the world*! Think “whole families, whole communities, whole world”! Whether married, widowed or single, male or female, young or old—all the redeemed are one family!

Reaching ALL THE NATIONS requires ALL THE CHURCH.

Conclusion

Looking “back” at the finished Great Commission from the other side of eternity, reveals that **the whole Church needs as many godly laborers as possible** to get the job done. (Great topical study on “the Great Commissions”: [Matt. 28:18-20](#), [Mark 16:15](#), [Luke 24:47](#), [John 20:21](#), [Acts 1:8](#))

4 Crucial Questions

1. What does this teach us about **GOD**?
2. What does this teach us about **PEOPLE**?
3. What command should I **OBEY**?
4. With whom can I **SHARE** this?