

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE GREAT COMMISSION MATTHEW 28:19-20

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Abstract - Education is everything related to increasing knowledge in development that is not limited by space and time. Education has elements of planning, systematic implementation and clearly measurable objectives. Broadly speaking, education is to gain new and useful knowledge for personal life and social life. Christian Religious Education is an education that teaches about faith in Jesus Christ. Christian religious education is a subject that must be taken by Christian students in formal schools. Besides being carried out in formal schools, Christian religious education is also carried out through church programs. Religious education is believed to be able to equip students from an early age to become people of high moral character. The Bible is a source of Christian religious education which contains content and teaching and learning methods that can be practiced by believers today. The main purpose of Christian religious education is to bring students to meet God through Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Everyone who believes in Christ has a duty to carry out the great commission of proclaiming the work of salvation to others and teaching them to grow in Christ (Matt. 28:19-20). The Great Commission is a mandate given by God to all believers to introduce Christ to the world. In this study, the authors used descriptive qualitative research. The author describes the relationship between Christian religious education and the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20 by using relevant sources through literature studies and relevant journals. This research provides a new contribution and perspective on the relationship between Christian religious education and the Great Commission.

Keywords: Christianity, education, great commission, religion.

I. INTRODUCTION

Education comes from the Greek word, pedagogy which describes a child who comes out of the house and returns home accompanied by a servant (Kadir, 2015). The main target of education is humans, which contain many aspects and have a very complex nature, so there is no adequate limit to explain the meaning of education in full.(Tirtaraharja, La Sulo, 2005). A child who leaves the house has a goal to gain knowledge, the child is trained to face an independent life without the presence of his parents. The child does not go home alone but is escorted by a servant who represents an educator. An educator is a person who serves children with new knowledge that can be brought home to be practiced in their lives. The willingness of educators to open themselves to serve students by sharing the expertise that is in themselves to make students have the same skills as them. Based on these two understandings, it can be understood that education involves the active role of students as people who want to learn and educators who are willing to teach their knowledge. An educated person will be a human being who dares to face life's challenges and is able to live in society. So education is not only beneficial for oneself but also has an impact on social life. In a broad sense, life is education and education is a process of living and living together(Anwar, 2017). Education is a must for everyone, an advanced civilization because of education. (Deak, 2021). In this study the author will describe the relationship between the practice of Christian religious education with the Great Commission of the

Lord Jesus Christ. It is hoped that through this research practitioners of Christian religious education can fully and clearly understand this relationship.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

In this study, the method used is descriptive qualitative, to provide a practical description of the relationship between Christian religious education and the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Matthew 28:19-20. Researchers collect information by means of literature review from related books or journals to collect information relevant to the topic or problem that is the subject of research.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Definition and Scope of Christian Religious Education

Christian Religious Education is education that introduces Christ to students so that they experience spiritual growth by having an intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and being able to preach it to others. Christian religious education is different from other education because it is theocentric, comes from God, works with God and only for the glory of God (John 6:44). The content of Christian religious education is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Bible as the basis of education. Christian Religious Education reminds Christians that their lives are lived in a completely secular environment and that they have loyalties in it. (Cully, 2009) The Holy Spirit is the real teacher, not only guiding to understand the truth (John 16:13) but also called truth (Kristianto, 2008) The Holy Spirit can change every area of life and renew it. The Bible clearly says; We know now that all things work together for the good of those who love Him. (Cully, 2009). Augustine said that Christian Religious Education is education that aims to teach someone to see God and live happily in it, the main focus of learning is God's actions from the beginning, namely creation and until the work of salvation that is bestowed through Christ. (Kristianto, 2008). The main point of learning Christian religious education is about God's work in human life from creation to redemption and eternal life provided through the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. John Calvin, said that Christian Religious Education is education that aims to educate the children of the church to be involved in Bible study with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to be involved in church worship and to understand it, and to be equipped to be witnesses of Christ as a sign of self-devotion to God in all aspects of life. everyday as a sign of gratitude for Allah's election (Kristianto, 2008).

According to EG Homrighausen, PAK is the duty of the church to guide its students to have fellowship with Christ both young and old, acknowledge it and glorify His name at all times and places. (Napitupulu, simatupang, 2020). Each understanding contributes views so that they complement each other. Christian religious education cannot be separated from the teaching and learning process. The study is based on the Bible as teaching material, and centered on Christ as the goal of the study itself with the help of the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 4:12-16 it says very clearly that the purpose of Christian religious education is as follows:

1. equipping the saints for the work of the ministry,
2. for the building up of the body of Christ,
3. Achieving unity of faith in Christ Jesus
4. Have true knowledge of the Son of God.
5. Have full maturity
6. Have a growth rate that corresponds to the fullness of Christ.
7. Not easily tossed about by every wind of teaching, by the deceitful play of men in the cunning cunning of their deceit,

8. Hold on to the truth
9. Growing in the love of Christ Jesus

This objective is in accordance with the National Education System Law and Government Regulation no. 55 of 2007 concerning Religious Education, it is explained that Religious Education is education that conveys knowledge and shapes the character, morals, attitudes, and skills of students in accordance with the teachings of their religion. The main motivation for Christian religious education in schools is the Bible which teaches, transforms and humanizes humans through their understanding as weak and lost creatures without the work of Christ. Students realize their sinfulness as a weak human being and cannot free themselves from the shackles of sin. Christian religious education must provide an understanding that deliverance and freedom will only be obtained by totally believing in God and humbling himself to accept the work of Christ's salvation on the cross. Christian religious education is not only limited to formal educational institutions but Christian religious education is also carried out in the church through public services, Sunday schools, Bible studies, discipleship, and other Christian fellowships and even through special guidance such as pre-marital and post-wedding guidance. Christian religious education is a church task that cannot be ignored, but should be considered as a very important function and carried out by the church itself. Christian religious education is not only limited to formal educational institutions but Christian religious education is also carried out in the church through public services, Sunday schools, Bible studies, discipleship, and other Christian fellowships and even through special guidance such as pre-marital and post-wedding guidance. Christian religious education is a church task that cannot be ignored, but should be considered as a very important function and carried out by the church itself. Christian religious education is not only limited to formal educational institutions but Christian religious education is also carried out in the church through public services, Sunday schools, Bible studies, discipleship, and other Christian fellowships and even through special guidance such as pre-marital and post-wedding guidance. Christian religious education is a church task that cannot be ignored, but should be considered as a very important function and carried out by the church itself. (Homrighausen, Enklaar, 2008).

Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)

The mandate can be interpreted as a message or order that must be carried out by the recipient. The mandate can also be interpreted as a belief from a person who gives a mandate to the recipient to do or convey something desired. The Great Commission is the message and call of Jesus Christ for every believer to proclaim His love for all people. Susanto states that parallel expressions for this command are found in Mark 16:14-18, Luke 24:44-49 and John 20:21. (Susanto, 2019). The great commission is an effort that believers reflect continuously as a special feature that distinguishes them from others, in addition to demands to do God's will but also as a sign of love for those who do not believe. The great commission contained in Matthew 28:19-20 is a unity and a whole. The important commandment in the great commission of the Lord Jesus Christ contained in Matthew 28:19-20 is go, be, baptize, teach and lastly believe in God's inclusion in its implementation. The implementation to carry out the most basic great commission that believers need to know is sourced from Christ and on His sovereignty.

First, the word go in Greek poreuomai which means to go, to travel, to depart. (LAI, 2021) This word signifies an active activity carried out by believers. Every Christian is required to proclaim the love of Christ in this world. Christians are required to have the courage to step up or leave their comfort zone for the sake of the gospel. Christians are required to make a change from one place to another. The disciples were told to go preach or deliver the Great Commission by being witnesses from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Preaching the gospel is a very beautiful and glorious call and will of God (Rom. 10:15). The word "go" is a command word in the active and present form which means that when someone receives the message or mandate he has to do it. In relation to Christian Religious Education, a teacher must carry out his duties as an evangelist. A

Christian Religious Education teacher is required to preach about the work of Christ on the cross to his students.

Second, the word "make my disciples" is a universal call for God's salvation to all nations on earth. The word make is an order to change something, in this case the word make is an order to make or shape someone into what you want. The word make is emphasizing the existence of an effort to mold someone to become a disciple of Christ, to be a disciple means to be like the teacher who teaches him in all things. In Greek the term used for students is *maththes* which means people who are taught to be like their teachers.(Abraham, 2015). Education is a process of personal formation, formation is defined as a systematic and systemic activity directed at the formation of the personality of students. Systematic because the educational process goes through continuous stages (procedural) and systemic because it takes place in all situations and conditions, in all complementary environments (home, school and community environments).(Tirtaraharja, La Sulo, 2005). The first goal of discipleship is to make the disciple have the knowledge possessed by the educator then the ultimate goal is to become the same as Christ as the Great Teacher. In the process of forming students, it requires the process and involvement of many parties. Discipleship is a process for forming a mindset and finding God's will. Becoming a disciple requires an open heart to obey the commands of Christ. In the concept and teaching of Christianity, someone who wants to become a disciple must bind himself to all the laws and values of life that are in Christ Jesus. Discipleship is an attempt to save a person from loss or eternal death in hellfire, (Hull, 2014). Discipleship is not just conveying God's word and forcing it to know without giving an opportunity to explore and feel the power of God. Discipleship is a learning process that is done consistently to get new values about Christ. Discipleship is a process to change the old paradigm by forming a new paradigm or mindset about Christ and his values which is then consistently lived by the disciplined person.

Third, get baptized. Baptism is a holy sacrament in which a person is required to promise to leave sin and be committed to being faithful to God's commandments and to become faithful and devoted people to Him.(Job, Darmawan, 2019). Baptism is a serious matter, after a person understands his nature as a sinful human being and only by grace is saved, then as a sign of repentance he surrenders himself to be baptized. Baptism is a sign of repentance and a pledge of allegiance to God willingly to leave his worldly desires. Baptism is a sacred sacrament that must be passed by people who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, the deepest meaning in baptism is that someone is cleansed or "buried" with his past sins and then resurrected with a new life with Christ. A person who is committed to following God submits himself to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit without any coercion in it.

Fourth, teach. This is a word of command to those who have received the great commission to teach about what they have known and what they have lived about Jesus Christ which they proclaim. The word teach implies the existence of a systematic and planned effort and is carried out continuously or continuously until someone who is being disciplined becomes mature and grows in his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament this process was carried out continuously, listen, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one, love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. What I command you today you must pay attention to, you must teach it over and over to your children and talk about it when you sit in your house, when you are on a journey, when you lie down and when you wake up. You shall also bind it as a sign on your hand and it shall be a symbol on your forehead, and you shall write it on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates. (LAI, 2021). The pattern of education and teaching process in the Jewish tradition known as the Israeli shema is how to introduce all the works of God to mankind, especially the Israelites. The concept or method of learning and teaching used is the method of repetition, the emphasis in Shema Israel is: Whenever, wherever and at any time everything is about Allah. This process was started thousands of years ago by the Jews long before modern education experts put forward the concept of lifelong learning.

According to BS Sidjabat, teaching is an effort to convey knowledge to students so as to form the correct self-concept in the best way through appropriate teaching methods in accordance with the child's development so as to produce changes in the spiritual, cognitive, emotional, volitional and behavioral fields. (Sidjabat, 2000). Teaching about Christian values about Jesus Christ as King and Savior and all his great works for mankind must be a learning material that must be given to a student who learns about Christianity. Believing fully in the Triune God, believing in the Bible is the word of God and also trusting and fully depending on the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit are the main things that should not be neglected in the learning process. In Matthew 9:35 the Lord Jesus himself went to the cities and villages to teach and to remove all sickness and infirmities. The Lord Jesus preached the gospel in the synagogues. (Boehlke, 2016)

The pattern of Christian religious education does not only talk about all of the above, but also talks about morals, ethics and other social relations with others, the government and in the life of the nation and state. (Ismail, 2010). Through their testimony, Christians remind the state of its limitations. The existence of Christian society as part of a cultural society can act as a leaven to enrich and strengthen democratic ideals.(Cully, 2009). Christians must be able to show the character of Christ through lifestyle, actions and words that radiate His love. This learning effort is a lifelong effort which requires the help of the Holy Spirit to live righteously according to God's will every day. God does not want His people to be alienated from their environment, but sent to the world, believers are sent to be salt and be light to this world, Matthew 5:13(LAI, 2021). Believers must be able to mingle and be able to coexist with unbelievers but still not pollute themselves but be a blessing to everyone. 1 Peter 1:15 says; But you must be holy all your life as he is holy who called you. 1 Peter 2:9 says; But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, so that you may proclaim the great works of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. Christians or people who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ must be able to maintain a holy life in every situation. Christians must continue to exude the love and character of Christ in spite of unfavorable treatment. The Bible gives advice: do not be defeated by evil, but overcome evil with good. The Bible is the source of all life that can change the life of a person who is evil for good, who doubts his future becomes full of hope for the future, who always feels lack becomes always fulfilled, who is always dissatisfied will be satisfied.(Haryanto, 2012).

The four things above are an emphasis in the great commission of the Lord Jesus to individual believers and the church as the bride of Christ in general. The words go, be done, baptize and teach are an integrated unity and cannot be separated or carried out only separately or in part. Everything must become a unified whole.

Functional Relationship of Christian Religious Education with the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20)

The great commission contained in Matthew 28:19-20 is the main basis that explains the goals to be achieved in Christian Religious Education. The implementation of Christian Religious Education is not a human effort to know God, but is God's initiative and will to reveal all His works for the world. Christian Religious Education aims to carry out the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus completely so that it produces fruit for the glory of Christ and humans are saved from eternal punishment. The relationship between Christian Religious Education and the Great Commission is as follows:

1. The Great Commission is an educational process in which there is a curriculum, students, and also a teaching and learning process as well as teachers.
2. The Great Commission is said to have a relationship with Christian religious education and it can even be said that the Great Commission is Christian religious education itself because of the involvement of teachers, who continuously involve themselves in the teaching and learning process and making disciples.
3. The Great Commission is the Lord Jesus' own command to educate people in the truth, education does the same thing, namely educating people in the truth to have a body in faith and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ as written in Ephesians 4:12-16.

4. The Great Commission and Christian Religious Education both teach about the Lord Jesus Christ and all of His works.
5. The Great Commission and Christian Religious Education both use the Bible as their main foundation.

Believers must have the passion and willingness to preach the gospel, to unbelievers, church members, and students in schools. The scope of Christian Religious Education is aimed at all human beings, because the atoning work of Christ on the cross is for the world not only for some people or certain groups. The Great Commission through Christian Religious Education needs to contextualize Christ's work of salvation in a simple and easily understood manner by others, of course without reducing His truth. According to Paulus Lilik Kristianto, the purpose of evangelizing, baptizing and teaching is an attempt to make disciples of Christ. (Kristianto, 2008).

Discipleship is an inseparable part of the Christian Religious Education process. The process of discipleship in Christian religious education is a demand to experience changes in thinking, changes in behavior and changes in acting in everyday life. This demand is to fulfill what the Bible says in Romans 12:2 which says; Do not be conformed to this world, but be changed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may discern what is God's will, what is good, pleasing to God and perfect. The teaching in question is not just conveying the word of God in knowledge to students but demands the results of gradual changes that radiate in everyday life. Those who believe in Jesus Christ daily must learn, take root, grow and bear fruit in teaching and in his daily life, because the true disciple not only knows but lives what he knows. Discipleship is closely related to salvation, as people who believe in Christ and are saved are required to be able to reflect that salvation by living continuously in Christ through discipleship.

According to AW Tozer, the characteristics of a disciple of Christ can be seen through a deep appreciation for divine words, sensitive to high morals, not content to only have strong morals but still have a deep thirst for truth. (Tozer, 2019). High morale is something that must be realized because it is needed in social life. (Zuriah, 2007). A disciple must be taught to depend completely on God through the guidance and guidance of the Holy Spirit. A student must realize himself that humans are fragile and easily anxious in dealing with life's problems, so that it is impossible for someone to live a life outside of the grace and grace of God. A true disciple will never stop learning to do God's will. Skinner argues that learning is a process of adaptation or adjustment of behavior that takes place progressively. (Haryanto, 2012). This means that a student must continue to learn, to become a person who is strong in faith and can contribute to the lives of many people.

The role of educators in discipleship is very important. In addition to proclaiming the word of God, it is also required to be able to be a friend, coach, guide for students. Be a role model that can be seen by naked eye by students. BS Sidjabat said an educator must have expertise in conveying God's word according to the needs of students, as a motivator, facilitator, and have the ability to lead students to experience an encounter with Christ. (Sidjabat, 2000). Clementus said that the teacher who plays the most important role in Christian religious education is not the teacher who is in front of the class but the main educator is the Word of God or Christ. (Boehlke, 2016). The main purpose of Christian religious education in the Great Commission of Jesus Christ is to bring people who are being disciplined or taught to meet God. God's teaching to man occurred throughout human history. (Haryanto, 2012). The teacher's example is an absolute requirement in the teaching and learning process. (Kristianto, 2008). The emphasis in this learning process is that how humans are empty humans without the atoning work of Christ on the cross. Students must also be taught that Christ's redemptive work restores man's relationship with God. Christian religious educators must be able to really pay attention and reflect on the noble calling of service to be an educator. Educators are intermediaries used by God to proclaim His love to mankind.

The Great Commission of the Lord Jesus must go hand in hand with the implementation of Christian Religious Education in educational institutions as well as church institutions. Christian religious

education must be carried out systematically and also structured so that the goal of introducing Christ to students can be achieved. Christian Religious Education helps the church to carry out its duties to disciple the congregation according to its age and development. The process of discipleship, teaching must be done regularly and continuously in order to be able to produce students or people who have strong faith. The Bible provides confirmation; 2 Timothy 1:13 Take all that you have heard from me as examples of sound teaching and do it in the faith and love of Christ Jesus. (Haryanto, 2012).

IV. CONCLUSION

The Great Commission is the main foundation for the implementation of Christian Religious Education. To achieve God's goal of making all nations spiritually mature disciples, Christian Religious Education is needed. Christian religious education must be carried out in a systematic and structured manner by educational institutions as well as churches. The Bible clearly testifies that Christians are not only called to have a Christian identity, but are also called to fellowship through the church. (Haryanto, 2012). The main difference between Christian Religious Education and other education is the nature and ultimate goal of the education carried out. Christian religious education starts from God, focuses on God and ends with God. The process of Christian religious education cannot be separated from the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ because the two have a very strong relationship. Christian religious education is carried out to get to know Christ and his work, as well as the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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