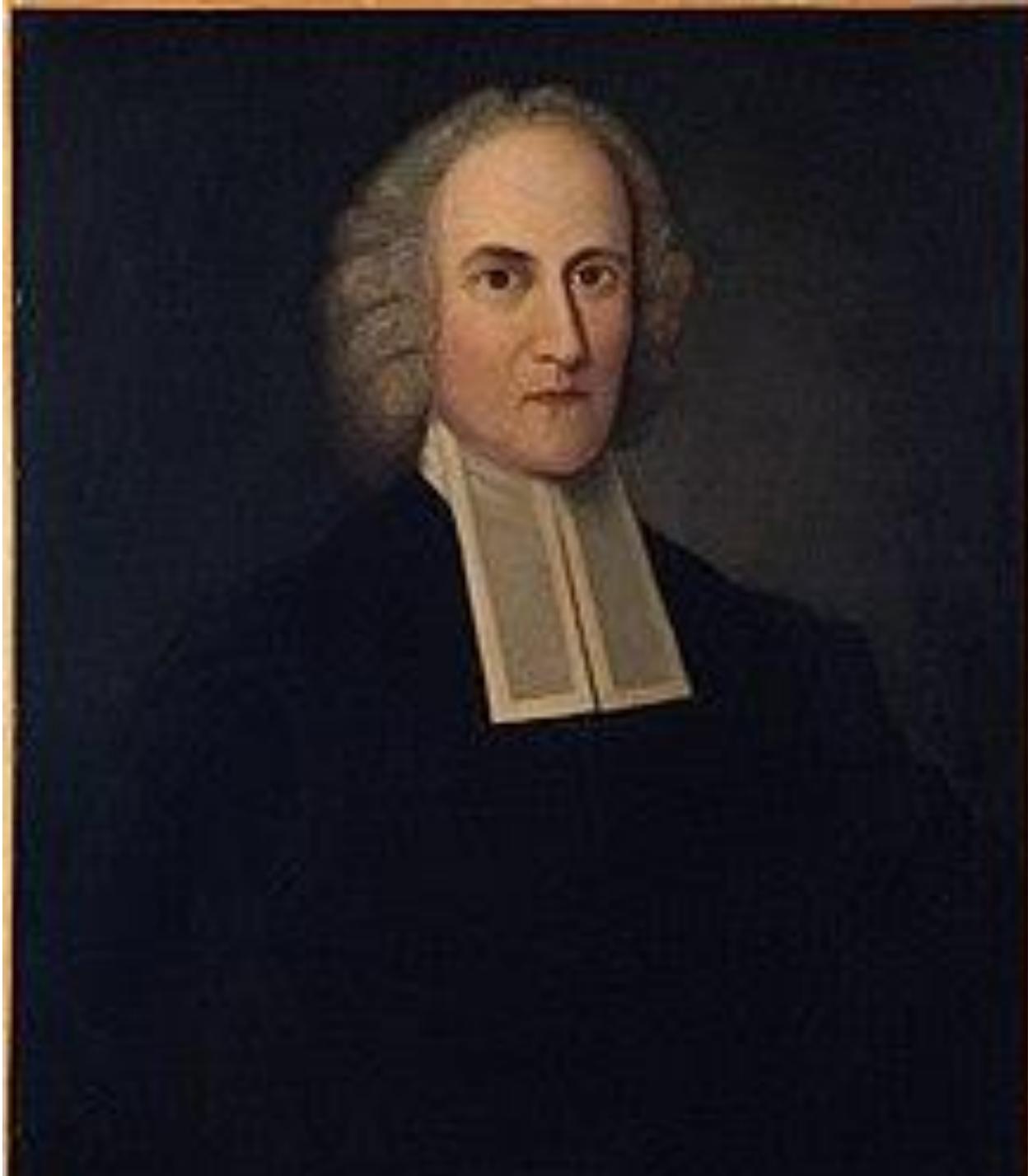


**Life Comes**

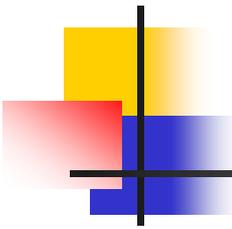
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**Unexpectedly!**



Jonathan  
Edwards  
1703-1758

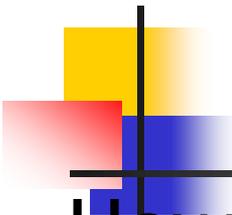
Sinners in  
the Hands of  
an Angry  
God - 1741



# Preach It, Preacher!!

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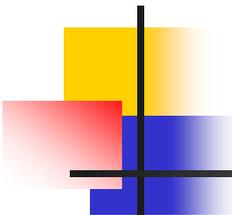
- A lot of people think that is good, preaching tell it like it is, take me to the woodshed, remind me I am not trying hard enough or doing good enough
- Motivate me, step on my toes, put the fear of God in me, push me to get myself together and get right and do right, or else ...



# How is That Working Out?

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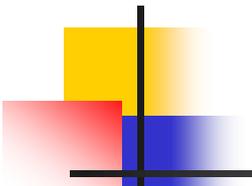
- How many of you really need me or Mike or any preacher to remind that you aren't trying hard enough and aren't doing good enough? Do really need a sermon to confront you with your tendency to fail and fall short of the glory of God?
- No, because the devil tells you that every day – that guilt fear, shame and anxiety comes from him, not from the Holy spirit
- What we all need is hope and help – point us to what will set us free from this trap



# Bad News ... Good News

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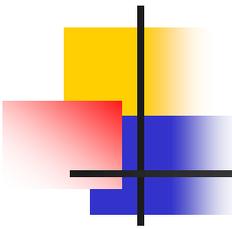
- Edwards - softspoken, erudite Christian philosopher paints a verbal picture of a sinner in the hands of God – describes the eternal state of those without Jesus.
- But ends with a focus on the grace and mercy of Jesus to rescue and redeem us, because those who have placed their faith and complete dependance in Jesus, are no longer considered to be sinners, but sinners **SAVED** by grace!!!



# Don't Forget the Cracked Pot

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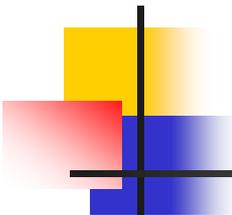
- Not saying you shouldn't aspire to live a better life, but the point is **YOU CAN'T DO IT, FLESH CAN'T CAST OUT FLESH BY FLESHLY EFFORTS, THAT IS WHAT THE CROSS IS ALL ABOUT!**
- God's plan from the foundation of the world was to make you weak, He made you not enough! **ON PURPOSE!!!**
- His plan was to deliver you – John 3:16



# Special Delivery

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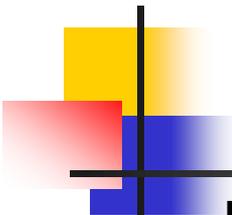
- So that he could fill you with His power and live His life in you and create the image of Jesus in you,
- No one wants to be stuck with the image of Jackie, it is the image of Jesus Christ in us, that brings glory to God and releases His Kingdom
- His plan all along is to make us like Jesus, by living and loving and working in us!!



# The Case for Discipleship

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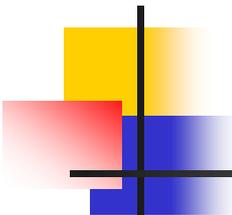
- I have been missing, misunderstanding something that has suddenly become clear
- Someone quote the Great Commission
- **19** [e]Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you [f]always, even to the end of the age.”



# Break It Down

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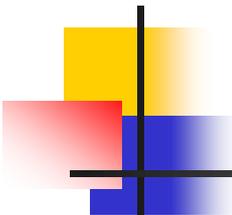
- MAKE DISCIPLES – not converts, not members, not acorns, not build bigger buildings and brands and programs
- But disciples - Someone who becomes like his master; people who carry/reflect and communicate the life of Jesus, so that when others are around them, they can TELL THEY HAVE BEEN WITH JESUS!
- I have completely lost sight of how key this is – apparently it is the point of church life



# Yes, There is More

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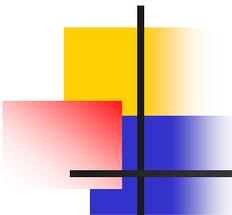
- Baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit – so they can experience full unity and intimacy with all aspects of God (John 17)
- But here is the MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE COMMISSION, THAT DEFINES AND ACTIVATES EVERYTHING ELSE:
- Teaching them to obey ALL I HAVE COMMANDED YOU



# This is For ALL THE MARBLES

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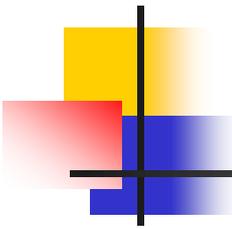
- ALL I have commanded – How many commandments did Jesus leave us
- There should be at least 10, right?
- If you count the Talmud and the Mishna there could be 1,000s! But Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for your failure and inability to keep all of those
- So how many commandments are we teaching disciples to obey?



# How About ... ONE? Jn 13:34

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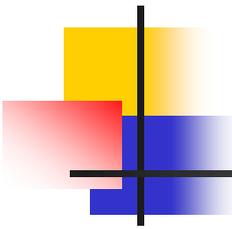
**34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** By this all men will know that you are **My disciples**, if you have love for one another."



# Refocus Our Identity

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A disciple is someone who keeps this commandment – to love like Jesus loves, and live like Jesus lived, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and fruit of the Holy Spirit, starting with the the love of Jesus – main fruit – this is our design and our destiny

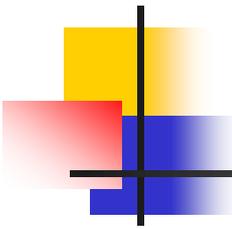


# Freedom to Live and Love

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Galatians 5 - **13** For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

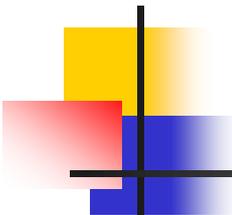
**14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."**



# Loving in the Spirit

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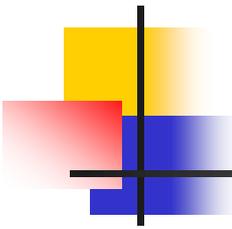
John 3 – <sup>23</sup> This is His commandment, that we <sup>[!]</sup>believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He <sup>[m]</sup>commanded us. **24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.**



# Brings Us to the Final Point

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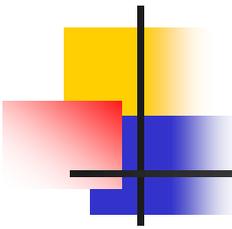
- I am with you [f]always, even to the end of the age (aion – surprise!!)
- The Great Commission is all about inviting people to follow Jesus so **THEY CAN BECOME LIKE HIM, LIVE LIKE HIM, AND LOVE LIKE HIM! As His Disciple**
- Filled and controlled by HIS HOLY SPIRIT at ALL times and in ALL places



# LIFE Comes Unexpectedly!!

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- Do you want to live the rest of your life as a rule keeper who is constantly focused on Do Better Try Harder out of fear of what might happen if you fail? (C vs D)
- Or do you want to be a Disciple of Jesus, letting Him fill you with His life so you can live like Him and love like Him to fulfill that one commandment that will forever change you and change the world around you?
- You can't make disciples until you ARE one



# Jesus + Nothing = EVERYTHING

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- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY