

We Will be a Discipling People

Matthew 28:19-20

January 24, 2021

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. **Matthew 28:18-20**

What's NOT said:

- Go and make converts,
- go and make church attenders,
- go and make Bible readers,
- go and make tithers, etc.

These will come IF we make disciples.

What is a disciple?

mathētēs: a disciple

Original Word: μαθητής, οὐ, ὁ

Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine

Transliteration: mathētēs

Phonetic Spelling: (math-ay-tes')

Definition: a disciple

Usage: a learner, disciple, pupil.

3101 mathētēs (from *math-*, the "mental effort needed to think something through") – properly, a *learner*; a *disciple*, a *follower of Christ* who *learns the doctrines of Scripture and the lifestyle* they require; someone catechized with proper instruction from the Bible **with its necessary follow-through** (life-applications).¹

By nature, the word "disciple" (based on definition) is clearly that which is ongoing. It's not a one-time choice or one and done; it is continuous. The part of speech is a noun so it refers a person who is a follower of Jesus Christ. As a Christ follower it is who we are/should be.

My youth pastor once said, "Becoming a Christian is making a one-time decision to become a lifelong disciple of Jesus Christ." (Shane Wilbanks)

As a Christian we are in a battle, every person is a soldier, we need to get in.

What are the marks of a disciple?

Trusted Jesus

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **John 3:16**

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

Denys self.

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. **Mark 8:34** (also found in Luke 9:22-33 and John 12:34-35)

True evidence of a disciple of Jesus is to deny self (sin and selfishness) and seek the Lord.

Love's God's Word.

'Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." **John 8:31**

You can't be an effective disciple of Jesus Christ and not love and know His Word.

¹ <https://biblehub.com/greek/3101.htm>

Fruitful.

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23

If I claim to be a disciple of Jesus, but there is no fruit, something is BAD wrong!

Love's others.

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:35

For years the world has watched to see how we will treat each other, inside the Church and outside.

Stand's on God's Truth.

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

Doesn't LIVE in sin.

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:1-4

Making Disciples.

Process, takes time, not flashy, not quick, lasts, is nasty, methodical, commitment!

Doesn't always work the way we want it to.

Make disciples not converts – we have missed this as churches in America. We have many shallow Believers that have no knowledge of God's Word.

Remember, Jesus poured into 12 men over 3 years and one of those left.

Do you know we are all disciplers? Take the word out of the context of Scripture, we are all disciplers! What are we discipling in? What are we discipling our kids in?

How to?

IF you are a Disciple of Jesus as just described, most likely you are already making disciples, though I think that represents the minority.

Making disciples involves taking others under our wing for the sole desire of seeking to point them to Jesus. Notice again not making converts, but disciples. The desire is to see them be mature disciples of Jesus Christ. The focus of leading a new Christian or any person to become a mature disciple involves:

Scripture

Prayer

Accountability

Encouragement

Evangelism

Goal:

Growth

Multiplication

Commitment

Real life (Get messy and ugly)

How do we disciple and or be disciple:

- **Pray and ask the Lord.**
- **I'd be happy to talk with you and seek to connect you with others.**
- **February 7th meeting at 5:45 here at Church (How to read God's Word).**
- **Catch a vision with me that everyone in our Church is a Disciple (leader) or being disciplined!**

Prayer Focus:

- **Am I a Disciple (follower of Jesus)?**
- **Am I walking with Him as a Disciple?**
- **Am I bringing others along the way?**