

Not an Option

(Matthew 28:16-20)



Introduction

1. The confusion about discipleship
2. The clarification about discipleship
 - Making disciples is intentional relationships for the purpose of growth in Christ.
 - Making disciples is learning to live life in obedience to Christ through relationships with the same goal
 - Making disciples is enjoying friendships with those who follow Christ and obey His Word together.
3. The crucialness of discipleship
 - ⁶These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up." (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)
 - ¹⁶But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. ¹⁷When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. ¹⁸And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" (Matthew 28:16-20)

The command to make disciples:

1. Christ's _____ (vv. 16-18)

- ¹⁶ But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful ¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying . . . " (Matthew 28:16-18)

2. Christ's _____ (v. 18)

- "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.'" (Matthew 28:18)

3. Christ's _____ (vv. 19-20)

- ¹⁹ '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.'" (Matthew 28:19-20)

a. Going:

Charles Spurgeon said, "If the elect had a yellow stripe up their back, I would go around pulling up shirt tails, but because they don't and I don't know who the elect are, I preach to all, I share with all, I talk to all, so that those who are elect will respond."

b. Making disciples:

- "The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." (Acts 11:26b)
- "A disciple is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher." (Luke 6:40)
- "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple." (Luke 14:26)

- "They reviled him and said, 'You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.'" (John 9:28)
- "And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, 'Behold My mother and My brothers!'" (Matthew 12:49)
- "Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.'" (Matthew 16:24)
 - Disciples pursue learning from Christ as they learn the Word through their disciplers.
 - Disciples pursue following Christ as they follow their models who follow Christ. *"Follow me as I follow Christ."* (1 Corinthians 11:1)
 - Disciples demonstrate commitment to Christ and imitate the commitment of mentors
 - Disciples grow complete in Christ bringing every area of life under the authority of the Word

*Just as Christ physically disciplined His men in the gospels,
so now the body of Christ physically disciplines believers in the epistles.*

- Discipleship formula: Relationship + the WOG + Holy Spirit + Time + Life X Intentionality X Intimacy

c. Baptizing:

d. Teaching:

4. Christ's _____ (v. 20)

- "and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b)

Conclusion

1. Discipleship is giving the greatest _____
2. Discipleship is an every day life _____
"I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you." (Galatians 4:19b)
3. Discipleship requires the ability to _____
-- When you stop developing, you are deteriorating
4. Discipleship requires God's _____

Application

1. Why is there such confusion—and lack of commitment—toward discipleship?
How can Christians reverse that trend?
2. What are the greatest errors and misunderstandings about discipleship?
3. How can people be unaware that discipleship is actually happening within the church, its groups, and ministries?
4. Why should discipleship be intentional? What is the purpose of biblical discipleship?
5. What will it require for every Christian [each of us] in a church to be discipling and to be disciplined in some manner?
6. What element of discipleship is the most difficult for most believers? What element of discipleship is the most joyful?
7. Why does Christ promise His power and presence in the process of discipleship?

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