

# **What is Discipleship?**

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## I. Review.

### A. Why do discipleship?

1. Making discipleship is not an option—Christ commanded us.
2. Jesus Christ is committed to empowering his disciples to do the work.

## II. What is discipleship?

### A. You cannot make proper use of anything until you know what it is made for.

1. What discipleship is will determine what you do.

### B. Three components to discipleship—learning.

#### 1. A disciple is a learner.

a. Therefore, the number one characteristic to develop in oneself and others is teachability.

#### 1) Matthew 11:28.

a) There is nothing more of a drag than the ministry done in the flesh.

b) We are called to learn from Jesus—this verb has the same root as disciple.

c) If you stop learning today, you stop living tomorrow.

d) Personal example of professor who said I would rather have students drink from a running stream than a stagnant pool.

#### 2) Our first task is to perpetuate the learning process.

3) No program qualifies you for anything—the learning process is lifelong.

a) The average individual throws their mind into neutral when they come into the church.

b) Personal example of motivating a layperson to become an active learner.

b. Learning is a process of change, not a matter of filling notebooks. It is a matter of changing people's thinking.

1) Christianity is radical—it is revolutionary.

a) If one tenth of what we believe is true, we ought to be ten times more excited.

b) We need to love what Christ loved and hate what he hated.

i. Jesus loved sinners and hated sin.

ii. We do the opposite.

c. Perpetual learning will change your behavior.

1) Every process of your life is affected—your work, your thinking, your sex life.

C. The usage of the word—following.

1. Literally means one who follows the life and teaching of another.

2. If a disciple is a follower of Christ, we need to spend more time studying the life of Christ.

a. Mark 2:14.

1) People who follow Jesus follow him in the midst of publicans and sinners.

a) We need to be involved in the lives of nonbelievers.

b) Personal example of giving a Bible study to a woman who smoked.

2) Those who do not follow Jesus throw stones.

3) Jesus was never bent out of shape about the Samaritan woman's bed hopping because he could see the real issue.

b. People follow the model that is presented them.

1) Paul was bold enough to say, follow Christ as I follow him. (1 Corinthians 11:1)

2) The basis of the Christian life is not the Christian community, it is Jesus Christ—we have been looking at the wrong object.

3) Leaders need to share their struggles to relate to their students.

a) Speaker shares his struggle with depression.

D. A disciple is a reproducer.

1. A disciple is obedient. (John 8:32)

2. A disciple is a loving individual. (John 13:13-34)

a. The new commandment is not to love one another, but to love as Christ has loved (unconditionally).

b. Ministers are failing morally. The evangelical community, though, is generally a very unforgiving community.

c. Galatians 6:1—brothers are to be restored.

3. A disciple is a fruitful individual. (John 15:8, 16)

a. You cannot impart what you do not possess.

b. God knows that you need to be changed.

c. It is not the student that is the problem—it is first the teacher.

d. Our ultimate prayer should be: Lord, change me.

**Application questions:**

1. A disciple is a learner. Where are you at in this process? Would others consider you to be teachable? How can you further cultivate a lifestyle of learning?

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2. A disciple is a follower. Paul was bold enough to tell his disciples to model him after he modeled Christ. How are you modeling Christ in the lives of your disciples? How can you be vulnerable with your disciples appropriately to relate to them?

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3. A disciple is a reproducer. What steps can you take to be more loving, obedient, and fruitful? In what areas do you need to take responsibility for in your ministry?

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