

Understanding Discipleship

Why should we disciple?

Christ **COMMANDED** it

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

This passage is Christ's commission to his followers – this is what you need to do in order to be obedient to Christ.

How many things are we commanded to do in this passage?

Only one command – “make disciples”. The words “Go,” “baptizing” and “teaching” describe how we are to make disciples.

What is a disciple?

Greek word *mathetes* (math-ay-tes')

- A **LEARNER**, disciple or pupil
- One who **FOLLOWS** another's teachings

Two things a disciple must have:

Right **ATTITUDE**

The attitude of a disciple is that of a **LEARNER** – they want to learn more about God, they want to grow in their understanding of him and his ways.

Right **ACTIONS**

A *mathetes* is someone who learns by **USE** and **PRACTICE** resulting in a transformed or **CHANGED** lifestyle

- Learn and apply what Christ is teaching
- Too many times we have great “head knowledge” but we have no real practical knowledge – we don't go out and do the things we need to do in order to grow.

Are there specific actions that a disciple exhibits?

- Walks in the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit
- Demonstrates love for God, his neighbor, other Christians and his enemies
- Knows how to read, study, memorize and meditate on the Word of God
- Person of prayer
- Obedient to the word of God

- Trusts God in all situations – life of faith
- Shares the gospel
- Worships God

Are disciples perfect?

A disciple is one whose life is showing an ever-deepening COMMITMENT to Christ and a Christ-like LIFESTYLE.

How do we make disciples?

Discipleship examples in the Bible:

- Moses and JOSHUA - Exodus 33:11, Deuteronomy 1:38
- Samuel and the PROPHETS - 1 Samuel 19:18-20
- ELIJAH and Elisha – 1 Kings 19:19-21
- John the Baptist and his disciples
- Jesus and the 12 disciples
- BARNABAS and Paul - Acts 9:26-27
- Barnabas and JOHN MARK– Acts 15:36
- Paul and SILAS and TIMOTHY – Acts 16:5

Discipleship process

MODEL - I do, you watch, we discuss

Christ chose 12 men to personally disciple.

COACH - I do, you help, we discuss

Many times Christ involved the disciples in his ministry

SUPPORT - you do, I help, we discuss

Christ provided opportunities for the disciples to minister like he did and was present to help them through the ordeal

- Mark 9:14-29

DELEGATE - you do, I watch, we discuss

Christ sent the disciples out several times on their own and then had them come back to debrief

- Matthew 10:1-15 – Christ sends out the 12 disciples to minister and to report back
- Luke 10:1-17 – Christ sends out 70/72 other disciples to minister and to report back

COMMISSION - you do, someone else watches, you discuss

Christ commissioned his 12 disciples to go make more disciples in Matthew 28.