

DISCIPLING 101

Matthew 28:18-20 – “*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.*”

INTRO:

- The Apostle Paul was both a true disciple and a disciple maker.
- His ministry, like that of Jesus, was very relational.
 - He shared his own life humbly and openly.
 - He had an inner core that he personally disciplined.
 - He taught his disciples to be disciple makers.
- He taught publicly and in homes.
- He taught and lived repentance & faith.

Three Things Required For Making Disciples And Growing Disciples

1. The Word of God.

- **Small groups** (even some larger ones) can be nothing more than social gatherings.
 - These are not necessarily wrong.
 - As human beings we need social involvement.
- **Social gatherings**, in themselves, don't produce disciples.
- **Self-help groups** have value, especially if they're Bible-centered. Unfortunately many are humanistic or even based on New Age philosophies. At best these only provide human interaction. At worst they mislead people.
- **II Timothy 4:3, 4 [AMP]** – *For the time is coming when [people] will not tolerate (endure) sound and wholesome instruction, but, having ears itching [for something pleasing and gratifying], they will gather to themselves one teacher after another to a considerable number, chosen to satisfy their own liking and to foster the errors they hold, ⁴ And will turn aside from hearing the truth and wander off into myths and man-made fictions.*
 - **Quote:** because we are prone to wander from the truth, a small group should be committed to regular Bible study and should root any attempts at life change in careful application of the study. Bible must be opened, read, studied and learned from. It is impossible to overstate the importance of getting into the Word of God for discipleship.
 - **Bill Hybels [Reveal]** – We learned that the most effective strategy for moving people forward in their journey of faith is biblical engagement. Not just getting people into the Bible when they're in church – which we do quite well – but helping them engage the Bible on their own outside of church.
- **Hebrews 4:12 [AMP]** – *For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of*

life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart.

- **Colossians 3:16** [AMP] – *Let the word [spoken by] Christ (the Messiah) have its home [in your hearts and minds] and dwell in you in [all its] richness, as you teach and admonish and train one another in all insight and intelligence and wisdom [in spiritual things, and as you sing] psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making melody to God with [His] grace in your hearts.*
- **Luke 11:28** [AMP] – *But He said, Blessed (happy and to be envied) rather are those who hear the Word of God and obey and practice it!*
- **Matthew 4:4** [AMP] – *But He replied, It has been written, Man shall not live and be upheld and sustained by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*

2. The Holy Spirit.

- **Surely we've proved to ourselves by now** that lasting change never comes through gritting our teeth and trying harder. That's more likely to lead to failure, guilt, and separation from God.
- **The power to change** doesn't come from the group or church itself. The group or church becomes the environment used by God where the Holy Spirit can do His thing.
- **II Corinthians 3:17, 18** [AMP] – *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (emancipation from bondage, freedom).¹⁸ And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.*
- **John 14:16, 17** [AMP] – *And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthenener, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever—¹⁷ The Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive (welcome, take to its heart), because it does not see Him or know and recognize Him. But you know and recognize Him, for He lives with you [constantly] and will be in you.*
- **The Comforter:** [Or Helper – One called along side to help.]
 - **Comforter** – to lessen ones grief and distress by giving strength and hope and restoring a cheerful outlook.
 - **Counselor** – to give advice or urge a course of action.
 - **Intercessor** – one standing in the gap for another.
 - **Advocate** – one who supports, recommends or pleads on behalf of another.
 - **Strengthenener** – one giving strength.
 - **Standby** – a staunch supporter or adherent. 2. something upon which one can rely, as for regular use. 3. something or someone held ready to serve as a substitute, as in an emergency.

3. The people of God.

- **Matthew 22:36-40** – Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? ³⁷– Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸“This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹“And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰“On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”
 - **Note:** in scripture there seems to always be either a vertical or horizontal directive (or both). Therefore we cannot separate relationships from the disciple-making process.
- **Relationships:**
 - Where we learn what a mature Christian life looks like. (& immature)
 - Some will encourage us and spur us on.
 - Others will rub us the wrong way, so we can learn forgiveness, forbearance and longsuffering.
- **John 13:34, 35** – A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.
 - Demonstrating God’s love is the ultimate sign of true discipleship.
 - If we aren’t intentionally striving to get along with others, we aren’t maturing, no matter how much biblical info we have.
- **Romans 12:9-21** [NIV] – Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
- **Hebrews 10:24, 25** [AMP] – And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities, ²⁵ Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people, but admonishing (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching.