

DISCIPLESHIP

Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men. ~ Jesus, Mark 1:17 (NIV)

Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away on a journey, when you are lying down and when you are getting up again.

~ Moses, Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (NLT)

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'
~ Jesus, Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)

I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

~ Jesus to his disciples, Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." ~ Jesus, Mark 8:34 (NIV)

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. ~ Paul, 1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV)

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

~ Paul, the Apostle, in a letter to the Philippian church, Philippians 4:9 (NIV)

We preach Christ, warning people not to add to the Message. We teach in a spirit of profound common sense so that we can bring each person to maturity. To be mature is to be basic. Christ! No more, no less.

~ Paul, the Apostle, in a letter to the Colossian church, Colossians 1:28 (Msg)

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

~ Paul, the Apostle, in a letter to his protégé Timothy, 2 Timothy 2:2 (NIV)

A disciple of Jesus Christ must be a disciple-maker who is...

- **Becoming more Christ-like as well as they influence others to do so.**
- **Constantly taking the next step toward knowing, loving, and following Jesus Christ.**

Discipleship engages the Head, Heart, and Hands.

What's the discipleship process? Good news and bad news – no formula!

So where do we start?

²⁸Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me. ~ Colossians 1:28-29 (ESV)

Characteristics of a Mature Christian

- An insatiable desire for God's Word (DMM), and knows the basic flow of Scripture.
- A dependence on prayer (DMM).
- A "care less" attitude toward the things of the world (DMM).
- A non-judgmental attitude toward the nonessentials (DMM).
- Knows and lives His position in Christ
- Simple answers (e.g. obedience vs. 17 ways to a better devotional life, etc.).
- Enjoys sharing gospel and can share message clearly.
- Forgives those that do wrong to him.
- Quick to listen, slow to speak.
- Recognizes and rejoices in the work of God (Acts 11:24).
- Faithful in all things.
- Encourages other believers in their relationship with the Lord (Acts 11:24).

A disciple must be...

Faithful (2 Timothy 2:2)

Available → Illus: Aristotle held prospective students head under water. How much is it worth to you?

Teachable

A disciple-maker must be...

Faithful

Willing to pour your life into others
Is your life worth pouring into others? (Phil 4:9)

Willing to teach.

What to teach a new believer...

1. Pray
2. Put Christ first
3. The authenticity of Scripture
4. The value of genuine fellowship (small groups)

Pastor Labib Mikhail (3/20/00), Egyptian Christian, Age: Approx 80

Thoughts for the discipler...

- Don't think you can do it all by yourself. Encourage "your" disciple to learn from others. You don't want to reproduce yourself; you want to reproduce Christ!
- Don't let your disciples become dependent on you (2 Chronicles 24:17).
- Beware of "I'm a follower of _____." (1 Corinthians 3:1-9).

Can you say "Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you (Phil 4:9 – NIV)," to others? If not, what must you change?

Are you participating in Jesus' Great Commission? Are you discipling and being disciplined? You gotta have it to give it! You can't give what you don't have.