DISCIPLESHIP

I. Jesus commanded us to make disciples, not converts.

A. Matthew 28:19-20: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

1. Ten translations of Matthew 28:19 use some variation of the word disciple to translate the Greek word MATHETEUO, which was translated “teach” in the King James Version. MATHETEUO means “to become a pupil; transitively. to disciple, i.e. enrol as scholar” (Strong’s Concordance).

a. This same Greek word was translated “instructed” in Matthew 13:52, which says, “Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.”

b. Vine’s Expository Dictionary says the Greek word MATHETES (from which MATHETEUO is derived) means “‘a learner’ (from MANTHANO, ‘to learn,’ from a root MATH-, indicating thought accompanied by endeavor).”

2. In Matthew 28:20, the word “teaching” means to give instruction.

3. Preaching proclaims.

4. Teaching explains.

B. Evangelism is preaching, but discipleship is teaching.

C. Jesus made disciples, not just converts.

1. Matthew 4:23: “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues.”

2. Matthew 9:35: “And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues.”

3. Matthew 11:1: “And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities.”

4. Matthew 21:23: “... came unto him as he was teaching.”


6. Mark 6:6: “And he went round about the villages, teaching.”
7. Mark 10:1: “And, as he was wont, he taught them again.”
   a. The word *wont* comes from a Greek word meaning “to be used (by habit or
      conventionality).”

8. Luke 5:17: “And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching . . .”

9. Luke 13:10: “And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath.”


11. Luke 21:37: “And in the day time he was teaching in the temple.”


13. John 6:5-6: “When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto
    him, he saith unto Philip, *Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?* 6 And this he
    said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.”

D. The disciples taught.

1. Acts 2:42: And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and
   in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

2. Acts 5:42: And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and
   preach Jesus Christ.

3. 1 Corinthians 4:17: *For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved
    son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be
    in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.*

E. Evangelism did take place without discipleship, but that was the exception rather than the
   rule.

1. Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch – Acts 8:39: “And when they were come up out of the
   water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and
   he went on his way rejoicing.”

2. Paul’s method – Acts 20:31: “Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of
   three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.”

F. Example:
1. Feeding of the 5,000 – Mark 6:38-44

II. Characteristics of disciples:

A. Must love God more than anyone, anything, or even self

1. Luke 14:26-38: “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? 29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, 30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. 33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.” Total commitment.

2. Matthew 10:37-38: “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.” Relative hatred.

3. Self-centeredness: root of all grief

B. Must be able to endure hardship/persecution

1. 2 Timothy 2:2-4: “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

2. Matthew 10:24-25: “The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. 25 It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?”

C. Must love others

1. John 13:34-35: “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

2. 1 John 4:8: “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”
D. Must bear fruit

1. **John 15:8:** “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”

2. **John 15:16:** “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”

E. Must continue in God’s Word

1. **John 8:30-44:** “As he spake these words, many believed on him. 31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. 33 They answered him, We be Abraham’s seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? 34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. 35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. 36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. 37 I know that ye are Abraham’s seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. 38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. 39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. 41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. 42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. 43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. 44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

2. **Acts 6:7:** “And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

III. The solution? Make disciples.

A. May vary from person to person and church to church

1. Small groups

2. Bible colleges

B. Systematic
1. **Isaiah 28:10-13**: “For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: **11** For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. **12** To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear. **13** But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.”

2. **Luke 1:3-4**: “It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, **4** That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.”

3. **2 Timothy 2:15**: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

C. Mentorship—can’t be a pupil (disciple) without a teacher or mentor. Self-taught is more like Paul (apostle).

Need baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We become disciples through meditating in the Word of God, which is the incorruptible seed (1 Pet. 1:23).

**Matthew 10:24-25**: “The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. **25** It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?”

**Matthew 10:42**: “And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.”

**Acts 11:26**: “And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”

Some of Paul’s instruction to his disciple Timothy:

**1 Timothy 4:12-16**: “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. **13** Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. **14** Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. **15** Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. **16** Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”

I. Quit blaming others/accept responsibility.
II. Lead by example.

III. Study the Word.

IV. Exhort others.

V. Get your doctrine straight.

VI. Operate in your gift and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

VII. Have others impart into you.

VIII. Meditate on the things of God.

IX. Be totally committed.

X. Mind your own business (Matt. 7:1).

XI. Reach yourself before you reach others.

You have to continue in God’s Word to be a true disciple (John 8:31). God’s Word is the seed of the kingdom (Mark 4:14 and 26-30). God’s Word is the incorruptible seed (1 Pet. 1:23 [sperma]). This is how we have God’s DNA implanted in us.

DISCIPLESHIP MULTIPLICATION

This table illustrates the multiplication that would take place if one person made two or three new disciples every six months and then each of them made two or three new disciples every six months and so on. This chart is based on making disciples and not just converts.

Two disciples every six months and three disciples every six months:

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>1 year</td>
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If one person discipled two people each year, who in turn discipled two people each year, look at the effect. Start with 10,000 people doing this.

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