

## Discipleship

That is what we are looking at tonight Discipleship.

As a member of God's Family, you have a responsibility, a duty to grow and be fruitful in your Christian walk.

God wants us to be fruitful (a. able to Produce, in abundance.)

**John 15:16**, ESV You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide...

**1 Peter 2:9**, NKJV But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

God is glorified (elevated) when we are fruitful in good things

**Colossians 1:10**, ESV so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

This is why it is necessary for me to discuss Discipleship

True disciples will bear fruit for God's glory

**John 15:8**, ESV By this my Father is glorified, (elevated) that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

A tree is known by its fruits. When we are fruitful, bearing good fruit, we are "pruned" so we can produce even more good fruit. Conversely, not bearing good fruit is a recipe for disaster.

**John 15:1-2**, ESV I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Pruning is the cutting away dead or unnecessary branches or stems, to increase fruitfulness and growth.

There may be things in your life that needs to be cut away, There may be things in your attitude that needs to be cut away. There may be things in your thinking that needs to be cut away.

**Matthew 7:16-20**, ESV You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

Discipleship is necessary in every Believer's life

## **What is Discipleship?**

Discipleship is teaching biblical precepts, while modeling and guiding others toward living righteously as followers of Jesus Christ. This should be a cyclical process—meaning once we are discipled, we are to disciple others, and so on. One of the most important characteristics of being a disciple (a student or pupil), is to develop an intimate relationship with God through Christ rather than just learning about Him. Discipleship equips the Christian with God’s Word, prayer, doctrine, worship, encouragement, and service.

## **What is Discipleship? What are Some Aspects of Discipleship?**

**First, we must realize that discipleship is an ongoing process. We should never quit learning and growing in our walk with Christ.**

Just as the New Testament disciples who chose to follow Jesus, we too should continually learn and grow stronger in our personal relationship with Him.

Do you desire to lead and disciple others along the way with all that you have already learned and experienced?

### **Part of the process includes:**

- Transformation and repentance, making God your priority (Mark 8:34-38)
- Learning the written word of God and living by it with commitment (John 8:31-32)
- Loving, edifying, and serving others as God leads (1 John 3:11-16)
- Focusing on living righteously, being fruitful (John 15:7-10, Galatians 5:22)
- Accountability with godly authority (Hebrews 13:17)

Foundational Values of Discipleship are:

- Evangelism (sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ) (Matthew 28:18-20)
- Being changed by renewing your mind (Romans 12:2)
- Worshipping God in all you do (Romans 12:1)
- Serving God toward **His** purpose (Romans 1:9)
- Demonstrating to the world the Power given us by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:7-11; 2 Peter 1:3-8)

What you model to others can be used by God's Spirit to bring them into your path. This provides the opportunity to develop an intimate relationship so you can introduce them to God's love and grace.

### **Discipleship training takes commitment, vision, and understanding the Scriptures.**

In reading the words of Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20), we see that discipleship is not just an option for believers. "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

This is the mission and purpose of the Church. We are to equip and grow disciples who in turn go out to equip and disciple others.

Unfortunately, many churches today have neglected this mandate.

That need not discourage us though as individuals. To paraphrase Luke 12:48, it says that to whom much is given, much is required. In other words, those who have received the knowledge of salvation

through Jesus are required to share it with others. This is how we add souls to the Kingdom of God. **We must be obedient and move from “just playing church to really being a church.”** Peter tells us to be humble toward others so that we can know the grace of God. We are to humble ourselves to God as well. Humbleness is a vital part of the discipleship all believers are to pursue with love and obedience.

Finally, when we exhibit a joy-filled, love-filled heart with the excitement of a better life and promise of eternity with Christ, how can we help but to want to share it with the world?

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him” (John 3:17). Now as much as any time in history, we and our morally, spiritually declining world are in need of repentance, transformation, and becoming equipped for a better life.

**Proverbs 23:12** says, “Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge.”

**I AM ASKING YOU TO COMMIT TO A 8 WEEK DISCIPLESHIP STARTING NEXT WEEK AND EVERYONE OF YOU THAT COMPLETES THE ENTIRE 8 WEEKS WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION**

**ARE IN THIS WITH THE LORD AND ME**