



Discipleship Training Program

Christianity 101 – Lesson Twelve

Discipleship

Memory Text

Mark 3:14 “And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,”

The great commission to the Church is to go and make
“disciples of all nations.”

Matthew 28:16-20 “Go ye therefore, and **teach** all nations.”

Acts 14:21 “When they had preached the Gospel to that city and had **taught** many...”

The Greek word for “teach” (Matheteou) means “to be or make a disciple.” The great commission is literally “to **disciple** all nations”!

What is a Disciple?

In order to understand the full implications of Christ’s discipleship program it is necessary to define the meaning of the word “disciple.”

A. Use of the word in Scripture

- a. Old Testament – The word “disciple” is only used once in the Old Testament, in a prophecy concerning Christ and the Church is **Isaiah 8:16** “Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.”
- b. New Testament – “Whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” **Luke 14:27**
 - i. The word “disciple” is used in the New Testament:
 1. In the Gospels – approximately 240 times
 2. In the Acts – 26 times
 3. In the Epistles – not once
 - ii. Question: Why is the word “disciple” used so much in the Gospels, seldom in Acts, and not once in the church Epistles?

B. Meaning of the word disciple.

- a. Bible meaning – Young’s & Strong’s Concordance:
 - i. “A taught or trained one.” (Same in Hebrew & Greek) A learner, pupil, disciple.” “To enroll as a scholar, be a disciple, instruct, teach.”
- b. Dictionary – Webster & Collins’ Dictionary:
 - i. “A pupil or follower of any teacher or school.”
 1. **Ephesians 5:1-2** “¹Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; ²And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.”
 2. **I Corinthians 11:1** “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”

- ii. "One that receives **instruction** from **another**; one that accepts the instruction or **doctrines** of another."
- iii. "A scholar, a pupil, a follower, adherent."
 - 1. **Mark 4:34** "But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples."
 - 2. **Luke 10:23-24** ²³And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see: ²⁴For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them."
- iv. "Discipline" –
 - 1. **Training** that develops self-control, character.
 - 2. **Submission** to control.
 - 3. **Orderly** conduct.
 - 4. **Treatment** that corrects or punishes
- v. "Disciplinarian" –
 - 1. One who enforces discipline
 - 2. **Job 36:10** "He openeth also their ear to discipline, and commandeth that they return from iniquity."

A DISCIPLE then is a **pupil**, a **follower**, a **scholar**, one in **submission**, one in **training**, one disciplined by Jesus Christ.

- **Luke 6:40** "The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master."
- **Matthew 10:24-26** ²⁴The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. ²⁵It 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? ²⁶Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known."

What is the relationship between a Disciple and the Local Church?

The New Testament teaches that every member of the local church is called to be a disciple.

- **Acts 2:41-47** – "added to the Church"
- **Acts 11:26** – "Church...disciples"
- **Acts 14:22-23** – "disciples...elders...Church"
- **Acts 19:1; 20:17** – "disciples...Church"
- **Acts 20:28-32** – "Church...disciples"

Gospels

Church 2

Disciples – approx. 240

Acts

Church 24

Disciples – 26

Epistles

Church 88

Disciples - 0

What does it mean to be a true Disciple?

The following things are involved in the acceptance of the initial call of Christ to discipleship:

- A. **Counting** _____ the cost first
- a. **Luke 14:25-33** ²⁵And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, ²⁶If 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. ²⁷And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? ²⁹Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, ³⁰Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. ³¹Or 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? ³²Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. ³³So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."
- B. "If any man will come after Me, let him":
- a. **Deny** _____ himself – denial of self is the first indispensable condition of discipleship.
- b. Take up his **cross** _____ - ready to die at any time. Crosses always pointed to the fact that a person would be crucified. Not an ornament!
- c. **Follow** _____ Me – following Christ Jesus. Three followers tested:
- i. **Luke 9:57-62** ⁵⁷And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. ⁵⁸And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. ⁵⁹And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. ⁶⁰Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. ⁶¹And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. ⁶²And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."
- ii. **Mathew 16:24-25** ²⁴Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."
- iii. **John 8:31** "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;"
- iv. **Mark 6:1** "And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him."

Many believers are **saved** _____ but they are not **disciples** _____. Salvation is accepting the work of **HIS Cross – discipleship** is taking up **OUR CROSS**.

His Cross – **Substitution** – Christ died for us – our Cross – **Identification** – we died with Him.