

## Week 2: Who is a disciple and how do you become one?

This week we want to try to **define 'a disciple'** according to the Bible and **give an overview of the process** of how to become and help someone become one. If we are supposed to 'go and make disciples' we have to know \_\_\_\_\_ **a disciple is** and \_\_\_\_\_ **one is made**. Let's see if we can develop a simple definition of **'a disciple' & 'discipleship'**.

Let's look at **three key phrases in the Great Commission** to get a clue:

Go and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them **to observe** all that **I have commanded** you...Matthew 28:19-20

**Disciple:** mathétés, μαθητής (a learner, a pupil, a follower...)

**To observe:** téreó, τηρέω (to keep, to guard, to observe to heed, to maintain)

**I have commanded:** entellomai, ἐντέλλομαι (orders given, commands given, instruction given)

A disciple is a **follower** of Christ who is careful to **observe** and **keep** the **commands** of Christ and the **instructions** he gave. Discipleship is helping someone **follow** Christ, by guiding them into **understanding** and growing in **observance** of the **commands** of Christ and the **instructions** he gave.

Let's see if we can affirm this elsewhere:

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to **be my disciples**. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you **keep my commandments**, you will abide in my love... John 15:8-10

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Let's see if we can affirm this in Paul's ministry:

...he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to **equip the saints** for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the **knowledge of the Son of God**, to mature manhood, to **the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**. Eph 4:11-13

**Equip the saints:** katartismos, καταρτισμός (Bring to fitness, prepare, perfect)

**Knowledge of:** epignósis, ἐπίγνωσις (real knowledge, true understanding)

**Measure of the stature:** teleios, τέλειος (full grown, complete in it's parts, perfected in character)

A disciple is a **follower** of Christ who has been **taught** and **equipped** with the **knowledge** of Christ...and is becoming closer and closer to a measure of **fullness** in **obedience** to Christ. Discipleship is the **process** of **equipping** believers with the true **knowledge** of what Christ has **commanded** and **helping** them grow into **developed** and **obedient** followers of him.

Let's see what others have come up with:

*"A disciple of Jesus is a Christian who increasingly desires to be like Jesus, who intentionally prioritizes their life to accomplish this, and who, therefore, constantly and efficiently grows in conformity to Christ' likeness, seeking to obey all that Jesus commanded."* **Bob Gilliam (Disciplepath)**

The major theme in all of these definitions is: \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

Therefore a major aspect of \_\_\_\_\_ a disciple or \_\_\_\_\_ a disciple is obeying & teaching all the commands of Christ. **Did you know:** There are **147 commands** of Christ in the gospels and **1433 instructions** to disciples in the New Testament?

Let's get a general overview of the process of 'making a disciple'.

Last week we saw that the essence of Disciple Making is **GOING – GUIDING – GROWING!** The steps of **GOING – GUIDING – GROWING** each require intentionally applying a specific biblical process.

We have already uncovered the basic elements of the process in the previous verses.

“...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

**Task 1: Teach & Instruct** others the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Son of God.

**Task 2: Help & Guide** others into \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ of the truth.

**Task 3: Equip & Build Up** others for the work of \_\_\_\_\_ & into unity in the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Task 4: Develop & Shepherd** others into full \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

There are many ways to go about doing this...

\_\_\_\_\_ Oriented (Titus 2:4)

\_\_\_\_\_ Oriented (Ephesians 6:4)

\_\_\_\_\_ Oriented (2 Timothy 2:2)

\_\_\_\_\_ Oriented (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

\_\_\_\_\_ Oriented (Hebrews 10:25)

**Which is the best approach?** Probably an \_\_\_\_\_ combination of all of the above.

What we want to uncover in the coming weeks is the way that \_\_\_\_\_ went about: **Teaching & Instructing, Helping & Guiding, Equipping & Building up, Maturing & Shepherding**, his disciples while he was here on earth.

**Jesus' process for discipling his followers:**

**Believe in Me:** Jesus challenged and taught his disciples to **believe** the things he said.

**Follow Me:** Jesus challenged and taught his disciples to leave the things of the world and **follow** him.

**Obey Me:** Jesus taught his disciples to **obey** the things he said and do the things he did.

**Serve through Me:** Jesus taught his disciples to **serve** others through his enabling power.

**Share about Me:** Jesus taught his disciples to **share** the truth about the gospel to the whole world.

**Personal Notes:**