

Week 1: Discipleship, the Mission of the Church

Today we want to focus on why **discipleship is the mission of the church** and the primary task given to us by Jesus.

There are **many reasons** why discipleship should be viewed as the **primary task** of the church. We only have time to look at a few: **The Final Words of Christ, Major Repeated Phrases, and The Pauline Model**

(1) Discipleship is the mission of the church because of: The Final Words of Christ

Read: [Matthew 28:19-20](#), [John 15:8-10](#), [John 17:16-19](#), [John 21:17](#)

The emphasis of the final words of Christ...

- (1) Obey my teaching, abide in me and _____ into the world and find others.
(Let's call this **'Going'**)
- (2) Find others who you can feed, care for and _____ them into obedience of the truth.
(Let's call this **'Guiding'**)
- (3) As you do this; God will sanctify you and them, _____ you in the truth.
(Let's call this **'Growing'**)

(2) Discipleship is the mission of the church because of: Major Repeated Phrases

Read: [Acts 1:8](#), [John 20:21](#), [Luke 24:46-49](#), [Mark 16:15-18](#), [Matthew 28:19-20](#)

Additional Repeated Phrases:

Read: [Matthew 4:19](#), [John 20:21](#), [John 17:18](#), [Matthew 28:19](#)

The 1st emphasis of the major repeated phrases:

- (1) Obey my teaching and _____, even to the ends of the world and find others.

Read: [John 10:14-16](#), [John 21:15](#), [John 21:16](#), [John 21:17](#)

The 2nd emphasis of the major repeated phrases:

- (2) Find others who you can feed, care for, and _____ them into the flock of God and into obedience of the truth.

Read: [John 14:21](#), [John 14:23](#), [John 15:10](#), [Matthew 28:20](#)

The 3rd emphasis of the major repeated phrases:

- (3) God will be with you and you will _____ in his love and in your ability to keep his commands.

Personal Notes:

(3) Discipleship is the mission of the church because of: The Pauline Model

Read: 2 Timothy 2:1-2

The 1st emphasis of the Pauline model:

- (1) As you are obeying Christ, _____ what you have heard to other people, who will also be able to help others.

Read: Ephesians 4:11-14

The 2nd emphasis of the Pauline model:

- (2) Teach, train, equip, _____ and build up others into mature obedience of Christ.

Read: Ephesians 4:1, 22-24, Philippians 2:14-16

The 3rd emphasis of the Pauline model:

- (3) Walk together in the light of your new calling and not in the darkness of your old life, obey the truth and _____ in holiness.

Let's Summarize:

Step 1: Making disciples is the _____ focus of the final instructions of Jesus & is the model of Paul.

Step 2: Disciples are made when believers _____ out into their world, and through **obedience** to Christ **bear** the fruit of the gospel by **entrusting** the truth to others.

Step 3: Disciples are made when believers help _____ others by **teaching** them the commands of Christ, **feed** them the word of God, **tend** to their needs and **equip** them to do the same for others.

Step 4: Disciples are made when believers help others _____ in holiness; through **baptism** into Christ and identification with other believers, **cleansing** by the Word, **sanctifying** by the Spirit and **maturing** in their walk.

Let's Apply:

1. We must _____ that 'making disciples' is the primary task of the church entrusted to us by Christ.
2. We must _____ that 'making disciples' has not been the primary task of our churches, our ministries...our lives.
3. We must _____ making intentional efforts to put 'making disciples' at the top of our priority list.
4. We must _____ God's method for 'making disciples' and not our own.
5. We must _____ God for his wisdom, power and mercy as we try to obey him in the realm of 'making disciples'.
6. We must be _____ to see the goal all the way to completion. Disciplemaking is difficult...it will take a lot of time, effort and commitment.

Join us next week as we 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.