

The New Testament Church
Mentoring Session #3 – January 14, 2024
Making Disciples – Dave White

Introduction: We are examining Christ’s call to disciple our neighbors so that they may become disciples of Jesus Christ just like we are. To do this we have to understand **what a disciple is and what constitutes the fulfillment for each.**

Colossians 2:6-7 **Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.**

Matthew 28:18-20 **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.”**

- a. The Lord initially commissioned Adam and Eve to populate and develop the world.
- b. Now He is commissioning His disciples to take over the whole world and disciple them into the Kingdom of God where His will is sovereign in all things.
 - i. Overcome the power of sin and death by the Spirit of God.
 - ii. Rule amidst our enemies until all are discipled as one.

I. What is a disciple?

1. **A talmid** (disciple) is a student, or maybe **more accurately an apprentice**. A mere student learns head knowledge to know what the teacher knows, but an apprentice works with the teacher to see what the teacher does, and then imitates that. Aug. 20, 2021hn 15:16; Luke 9:57-62). Mark 5:18-19
 - a. The *talmidim* (rabbi’s disciples) chose their own teacher. Jesus chose His own disciples (John 15:16; Luke 9:57-62). Mark 5:18-19 shows how Jesus even rejected some who wanted to follow Him!
 - b. The *talmidim* chose a rabbi based on his knowledge of the Torah (the Old Testament Scriptures) because the law was the center of Judaism. A rabbi only had authority commensurate to his knowledge of the Torah; the authority belonged to the Torah, not any individual rabbi.
 - c. In contrast, Jesus expected His disciples to renounce everything, not for the sake of the Torah but for His sake alone (Matthew 10:38). In the New Covenant, Jesus is the center of the universe, not the Torah (or the Bible). Read Colossians 1:17; John 5:39-40. (Of course, the Scriptures bear witness of Christ if read with an unveiled heart; read 2 Corinthians 3:15-18.)
 - d. There is no graduation or official degree that completes our discipleship process. It is an ongoing process that continues until our last breath in this life and beyond (Philippians 3:7-14; 2 Peter 3:18).

- e. Disciples of rabbis were only their students, nothing more. The disciples of Jesus were also His servants who committed themselves to obeying Him and suffering for His sake (Matthew 16:24-25; John 12:26).
- 2. Jesus was a disciple of Heavenly Father.
- 3. **John 7:16-18** Jesus answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.
- 4. **John 8:54-56** Jesus replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.”
- 5. When I became a Christian I was blessed with a host of strangers who came into my life to show me how to pray, read Scripture, meditate, build a library of teaching books and do ministry in interpersonal problems, prisons, and helping others with physical needs.

II. The fulfillment of an apprentice is becoming like Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:29-30 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

- 1. To understand the apprentice process with Christ starts with understanding who we are so we may understand how God transforms us by His Spirit.

1Thessalonians 5:23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 2. God, our transformer works through His Word.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- a. The reference to the word of God refers to Christ.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

1John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

- b. Our apprentice relationship with Christ is realized as He transforms our being through interacting through all our senses and all our earthly experiences.

- 3. **Soul:** Our **Mind – Processing Center – Earthly Consciousness of Being**

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 8:5-7 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

4. **Spirit:** Our **Heart** – *Command Center (Will)* – Deep Consciousness of being
Psalm 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
Ephesians 6:6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

5. **Body:** Our **Physical Being** – *Action Center* – Earth Bound Being
- a. God transforms our whole being which enables us to bring the Kingdom of God to life in our bodies.
 - b. God speaking directly through the mind:
 - i. My library access to Knowing God by J.I. Packer.
 - ii. My prayer for healing for woman with wrong motives.
6. God speaking directly through the Spirit: Young boy healed before surgery.

Conclusion: The greater our relationship with Christ, the greater our transformation into the person of Christ and the greater the Kingdom of God transforms the world.