

What does discipleship mean simply: "a learner." A disciple is a learner of the things of Christ. It is the core function of the church. **What does it look like and accomplish?**

1. **Myths of Discipleship:** 1) One guy telling other guys about subjective experiences. 2) It happens when families do life together. 3) It is seeking a mystical experience.
 1. In response to the myths above: (1) It is growing in knowledge of Scripture. (2) Beware of cliques and exclusivity. (3) Redeem the time, keep Jesus' commandments, Eph. 5:16.
2. **Foundations of Discipleship:**
 1. Gospel: Know it (1 Cor. 15:3-4, other passages). Luke 14:25-35, **Count the Cost:** a) V26, love Christ more than family. b) V27, expect to suffer for Christ. c) V33, can I answer: "Do I own any part of my life?"
 2. Humility: James 1:19-20 is well known, but the context continues in V21-22, "receive with **meekness** the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourself." Fools hate wisdom and instruction, but the wise hear and do what is commanded of them.
 3. Hunger: Yearning for righteousness and the knowledge of Jesus, Matt. 5:6, Eph. 4:13, Col. 1:9, 2 Pet. 2:3&5. Paul's desire to see Christ formed in the Galatians, Gal. 4:19.
3. **Goals of Discipleship:**
 1. Learning Theologically: 2 Pet. 3:18, grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Not sentimentality, but being filled with the full knowledge of Christ, His commands, and a full knowledge of the Scriptures.
 2. Training Generationally: 2 Tim. 2:2, Paul to Timothy and then entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others. Be mindful of Heb. 5:12-14 and mature in Christ.
 3. Diminishing Idolatry: the putting off of sin, Rom. 6, Eph. 4, Col. 3. Be holy as God is holy, purifying and living godly, Ps. 24:4, 2 Tim. 2:19, Tit. 2:12, Jn. 15:19, 1 Jn. 4:5-6.
 4. Shining Brightly: Matt. 5:16, a light in the world. Wives can win their husbands by their conduct, 1 Pet. 3:1-2. A life of holiness can bring the unbeliever to saving faith, 1 Pet. 2:11-12.
 5. Living Obediently: live and obey with urgency, Eph. 5:15-16. Live soberly (sensibly), righteously, and godly, Titus 2:12. A life set apart for Christ and not the world.
 6. Working Zealously: Tit. 2:14, zealous for good works. Eph. 2:10, good works were prepared beforehand for us. Gal. 6:9, don't grow weary or lose heart in doing good. Paul fought the good fight of faith, putting off sin and being a slave of Christ.
 7. Looking Eternally: Col. 3:1-4, Titus 2:13, 1 John 3:1-3, 1 John 2:15-17, 2 Pet. 3:11-13. Seek the things above where Christ is.
4. **Results of Discipleship from Eph. 4:11-16:**
 1. Work of Service and Ministry: V11-12, giving of men and equipping to do the work.
 2. Building Up of the Body of Christ: V12, edifying itself in love (Eph. 4:16).
 3. The Unity of Faith: V13, common and eternal bond in Christ's body.
 4. Full Knowledge of the Son of God: V13, from Genesis of Revelation knowing His Word.
 5. Growing in Christlikeness: V13, to a perfect, mature man, Christlike example.
 6. Resistance to Deception: V14, stable and strong in the knowledge of Christ.
 7. Speaking Truth: V15, defending the Gospel, giving an answer for our hope (1 Pet. 3:15).
 8. A Growing Church: V16, every part of the body working together builds itself up.

5. **Instruments of Discipleship**: Preaching, teaching, small groups, music (Eph. 5:19-20), books, gathering, mentoring, and admonishing one another (Rom. 15:14).
6. **Sacrifices for Discipleship**: Time learning, giving, growing, internal evaluation of sin and heart motives. A love for Christ, labor of love (the surrounding region new of Christ because of the Thessalonians, 1 Thess. 1:3, 7-8) and the lost.

Further Discussion and Application

Spend time in prayer asking the Lord for your own personal conviction to mentor or disciple another. Spending time praying for discipleship opportunities. Spend time praying for new believers who need someone to teach them about Christ and explain the Scriptures.

God's life for us in one of service and discipleship. What are we doing to grow in sanctification and the knowledge of God's Word? What is lacking and needs to be shored up and engaged in our walk with Christ?

What fruit are we bearing as a believer? What fruit that we are bearing is remaining? How do we see our labor affecting others and contributing to the sanctification of ourselves and others?

What is the goal of discipleship? What is the promise that we have from learning about Christ and being obedient to Him (John 17:17) ? How do we rejoice when we overcome habitual sin in our lives and further on see our habitual sin become scarce in our lives?

How does a holy life position us to be useful and excellent in the works that God has prepared for us (Eph. 2:10)? How is holiness increased in our lives? What new habits can we put on that would establish our hearts and sanctify our lives?