

Discipleship Part 2: Who Can Disciple?

Tom Nelson

I. Review of Part 1.

A. Five things are required to follow Jesus.

1. Humility of self.
2. Admiration of another.
3. Education in the ways of God.
4. Application of God's truth to our lives.
5. Adoption into Jesus' purpose.

B. Discipleship is giving up my will to do the will of God.

II. Discipleship is our priesthood.

A. We do not come to God through a human mediator like the pope or any other leader but through Christ.

B. The Protestant church protests the idea that a human mediator is necessary for us to hear from God.

C. We believe in the direct communication between the believer and God.

D. There is not a group of professional ministers to do the work of ministry but a body of believers that witness to the lost and win them to Christ.

1. Paul ends his letter to Rome with a list of names; people who carried on the work of the ministry. (Romans 16)

2. We have had revivals on the work of the Spirit, who Christ is, the inerrancy of the Word, etc., but there has never been a revival of applied ecclesiology.

a. The body does the work of ministry.

b. Often parachurch organizations do more in this area of ministry in the world than the church does, and it is not right.

E. Discipling

1. A discipler teaches the fundamentals of Christ.

2. A discipler gets your wheels on the track of truth, life, and ministry.

3. A discipler is an incarnation of Christ to you.

F. What does it take to be a discipler? (Romans 2)

1. Paul said they guide the blind, correct the foolish, and teach the babies. (Romans 2)

2. Some Christians are still in basic training, never getting serious as a disciple.

G. Discipleship is the logical outworking of a man or woman of God who desires to follow Christ.

III. Nine things that mark a disciple of Christ.

A. Orthodoxy: you cannot lead people into error and be a disciple.

1. It is inevitable that stumbling blocks will come but woe to those who promote them.

a. The Bible is inerrant.

b. Christ is the Son of God.

c. Salvation is an act of grace.

d. The Holy Spirit is deity.

e. The bodily resurrection of Christ and His second coming are certain.

2. Elders must hold to the sound teaching of the Word (Titus 1:9)

3. Get a book on systematic theology and study it.

B. A disciple maker has eternal values.

1. We are not focused only on money and human appetites.

2. We are focused on heavenly things.

3. William Booth started the Salvation Army by focusing on others.

4. "Am I my brother's keeper?" Yes.

5. The one who lays up treasure on earth with no regard for heaven is a fool.

C. Incarnate truth in your life.

1. The gospel does not come in word only but in power and conviction and the Holy Spirit living through men.

2. How you speak to your mate and raise your kind is crucial to incarnating truth.

3. The Pharisees were hypocrites, saying one thing and doing another.

D. We must have a vital, personal, devotional life.

1. Jesus often prayed early in the morning.
2. We are not stagnant pool but flowing streams.
3. Are you having daily personal time with God?
4. If not then your teaching will be like mantras of what others teach.
5. My greatest joy is to withdraw during the day, getting alone with God.

E. Communicate basic truths clearly.

1. You must be able to bet people started in truth such as the Bible is the Word of God, and Christ is the Son of God etc.
2. You must be able to help people see that dating, marriage, money, and time are issues of life that need to be in submission to God.

F. You must enjoy people, not being prickly.

1. We must be good listeners.
2. We must be fun to be with.
3. We must be liked by others as much as is possible.
4. If we are exuding heartache and hardship we will not attract others.

G. We need to have the ability to inspire.

1. This is not a gift but the logical outworking of someone who loves God and people.
2. Challenge people to obey Christ in light of who he is.
3. What is the use of giving more truth to people who refuse to give it out to others?
4. Bible teaching is not the purpose of the Christian life; it's the means to the Christian life.
5. Instead of being privates we need to become corporals and sergeants.
6. Trust God to help you to lead others.
7. Do not go to church merely to sit and listen, but get involved in teaching others, mentoring them.
8. We do not just give data but we inspire people.

H. We must be able to reprove people when they need it.

1. When people speak unkindly to their spouses we must be able to help them see this.
2. We reprove in love, helping people to bring their conversation in line with God's standard.

I. We need perseverance.

1. Discipleship is not something we do for a season but for the rest of your life.
2. Living for money and pleasure is empty.
3. Living to help others to become followers of Christ brings fullness of life.
4. This is fulfilling the mandate given to Adam, exercising dominion in the earth.

IV. Are you being a disciple?

- A. If not you need to begin.
- B. Some of you are too busy making money and that is a shame.
- C. If you are just making money you are distracted with worthless things.
- D. God's will is for every Christian to disciple others.
- E. Discipleship is a holy passion.