

Discipleship in the 90s - Part 1

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Introduction:

- A. Believers become new creations in Christ. (1 Corinthians 5:17)
 - 1. Billy Graham has preached to thousands.
 - 2. Many come to faith through hearing the word preached.
- B. I met a young man who had a difficult life and wanted to take revenge on the world.
 - 1. His life changed when Christ came into his life.
 - 2. He was a black man who hated white people.
 - 3. Now he wants to preach Christ to the world.
- C. Christ changes our destiny.

I. Today I want to talk about the role of a disciple in the world today.

- A. Prior to receiving Christ we were all separated from God, without hope. (Ephesians 2:11-13)
 - 1. People need hope and help.
 - 2. Without God self is in the center of our lives.
 - a. This produces selfish values.
 - b. When God comes into a person's life we become God centered.
 - c. This produces constructive behavior.
 - d. We are in the process of becoming more like Christ.
 - e. I met a couple lately who lost their baby and said God is unfair.
 - f. The truth is they don't know God and are without hope or help.
- B. God is building within believers a holy temple for himself that we might be his peculiar people. (1 Peter 2:9-11)
 - 1. Believers are salt and light in this world. (Matthew 5:13-14)
 - a. God's people are to be different from the world.

- b. God has called his children to be holy.
- c. Israel was to be different from their neighbors. (Leviticus 18)
 - 1. A black man in South Africa crashed into a white Christian's car and the Christian befriended the man.
 - 2. He invited this black man to his home to talk and he shared Christ with him.
- d. I wonder what my neighbors would say about me.
 - 1. Would they say we are Bible busy?
 - 2. Would they say we are loving and caring.
- 2. Believers are to penetrate the world with preserving quality.
 - a. Jesus prayed that believers should be in the world. (John 17)
 - b. A friend wanted to leave his job because his coworkers were all unbelievers.
 - c. An excited evangelist calls unbelievers pre-Christians.
 - d. Jesus became incarnate into the human condition. (John 1:14)
 - e. A friend planned to spend time with non-Christians in order to love them.
 - f. Our world is post-Christian.
 - g. After five years my friend and his wife have seen five couples come to Christ.
 - h. The Welsh revival over 100 years ago swept that country,
 - 1. Pubs closed
 - 2. Crime dropped.
 - 3. The coal mines ceased production because the mules in the mines that pulled the coal did not know how to respond to the workers' kind words.
 - 4. Schools changed.
 - 5. Divorce dropped.
 - i. How is our country doing?

1. Violence is high.
 2. Divorce is skyrocketing.
 3. Children are abused.
- j. If a house is dark is it the house's fault?
- k. Society is not to blame because it needs salt and light.
- l. Where are God's people?
- m. We need to make some changes in our lives by taking on a new identity.
 1. Psychologists tell us there are three needs; security, significance, and satisfaction.
 2. We need these things but the world tries to find these in belonging to someone or something like gangs or clubs
 3. We fear rejection.

4. Christians belong to God, he is our father. (Romans 8:15-17)

5. We are the precious possessions of God. (Psalm 103:10)

6. I confessed once to my dad something I had done wrong and he told me not to do it again.

7. God knows we are not perfect and his forgiveness is endless.

8. As long as we continue coming to God with our sins he continues to forgive us.

9. We have appearance needs and success needs, etc.

10. Self worth is an identity issue that only becomes real by seeing ourselves in Christ.

11. We are no longer slaves but we are friends of God. (John 15:13-15)

12. Accomplishment and possessions do not make people significant.

13. Self-fulfillment will not satisfy us. (Philippians 4:19)

14. Our confidence is from God. (2 Corinthians 3: 6)

15. Jesus lived to please his Father. (John 8:39)

16. God works in our circumstances for us. (Romans 8:28)
17. I attended a school reunion and I was overshadowed by the successful people I met there, but I know I did not make the wrong career choice.
18. We live to hear God say to us, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”