

Sermon Notes
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September 26, 2010
THE HIGH CALLING OF MAKING DISCIPLES
Part 2: The Case for Discipleship

Text: John 15:5-17

INTRODUCTION:

1. The pastor-leader must possess convictions regarding disciple making and declare it as top priority from the pulpit.
2. The philosophy and its goals should be published in church literature and placed into the constitution as the criteria for measuring success.
3. The disciple-making philosophy must be modeled at the church leadership level. The pastor and leaders should be effective disciple makers themselves.

I. A Disciple is Pursuing the Knowledge of God's Word, 8:31.

"If you hold to my teachings, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free".

STUDY: *"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles (orthotomeo, guide on a straight path) the word of truth".* II Timothy 2:15

STRUGGLE: *"For though we live in the world we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."* II Corinthians 10:3-5

STAND: *"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."* I Peter 3:15

II. A Disciple is Praying as a Means of Daily Communication with God, 15:7.

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given you.”

CONDITION: *“Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from Him anything we ask because we obey His commands and do what pleases Him,”*

I John 3:21.

CONFIDENCE: *“This is the confidence we have in approaching God that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we have asked of Him.”*

III. A Disciple is Practicing Obedience, John 15:10

“If you obey my command, you will remain in my love just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in His love.”

LOVING: *“If you love me you will obey what I command.”*

John 14:15

LIVING: *“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father and I too will love Him and show myself to him.”* John 14:21.

IV. A Disciple is Producing Fruit, 15:18,19

“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples...but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.”

REFLECTION: *“But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...”* Galatians 5:22,23

REPRODUCTION: *“I chose you and appointed (set, placed, arranged, decided) you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last,”* John 15:16

V. A Disciple is Purposeful in Seeking to Glorify God, 15:8.

“This is to my Father’s glory that you bear much fruit...”

FOUNDATION: *“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we are asked or imagine according to his power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations,”* Ephesians 3:20, 21.

FOCUS: *“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples,”* John 1:8.

VI. A Disciple is Pleasing God and Experiencing Joy, 15:11

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

DEFINITION: A supernatural sense of well-being that comes from knowing we are pleasing to God (Hull)

DEMONSTRATION: *“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved (seen as genuine, doikomos) by men,”* Romans 14:17, 18

VII. A Disciple is Patterning Christ’s Love for Others, 15:12-14, 17

“...Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends...This is my command: Love each other.”

COUNTERFEIT: *“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth,”* I John 3:16-18.

CREDIBILITY: *“...Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another,”* John 13:34, 35.