

Connect Class

Membership

Discipleship

Spiritual Gifts

Ministry

Tithing

Discipleship: Becoming more like Christ

What or who is a disciple?

- Committed, dedicated follower of Christ
- Student of Jesus' Word; His teachings
- A witness of Christ to others – transformed by the Gospel
- Imitator of Christ
- Christ is Lord of his/her life

Jesus Calls Each of us to BE His Disciples

"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples." - John 8:31

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." - Luke 9:23

"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My father will honor the one who serves me." - John 12:26

What is a Christian disciple?

Developing a personal, lifelong, obedient relationship with Jesus Christ in which he:

- Transforms your character into Christ-likeness
- Changes your values into kingdom values
- Involves you in His mission in the home, the church and the world - Masterlife, Avery T. Willis

*A lifelong process of becoming more and more like Christ everyday!

Discipleship is Biblical

Moses and Joshua | Moses discipled Joshua

"Moses served as an example for Joshua, teaching him to pray, obey God, lead the people: Joshua continued Moses' work and led God's people to the promised land - "And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the Spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses." Deuteronomy 34:9

Elijah and Elisha

1 Kings 19:16-19 – Throwing his mantle (cloak) over Elisha's shoulders signified Elisha's call to be Elijah's disciple) – (Elisha assumed Elijah's ministry)

Paul and Timothy

Timothy succeeded Paul and continued spreading the Gospel

2 Timothy 4:5; Philippians 2:22

"But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel."

A discipler...

- Instructs you in the ways of the Lord; in word and deed
- Encouraged you in your gifts
- Supports you in difficult moments
- Corrects you when necessary

Making disciples | Jesus calls us to make disciples

The Great Commission

"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." - Matthew 28: 16-20

What are the benefits of discipleship?

- Journey partner
- Spiritual mentor
- Confidant
- Prayer partner
- Keeps us accountable
- Keeps us on track - growing
- Connects you to the Body of Christ

- Helps you identify your spiritual gifts - others see in you!

MGT Ministry One-on-One Discipleship

Should I request a discipler?

Everyone should have a discipler - it's Biblical and beneficial to your spiritual growth

First, count the cost!

Salvation is free but discipleship will cost you (time, effort, obedience, accountability)

You need to be willing to meet your discipler halfway to get the most out of your discipling relationship

How do I request a discipler?

Ladies → Carol Claudio

Men → Pastor Rodriguez

Church Office: (212) 316-5848

Spiritual Gifts

Romans 12: 1-6 (NLT)

A Living Sacrifice

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you."

Romans 12: 6-8 (NLT)

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly."

List of Gifts (Romans 12: 6-8):

- Prophecy
- Serving
- Teaching
- Encouraging
- Giving
- Leadership
- Mercy/Kindness

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (NLT):

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the

ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have."

1 Corinthians 12:28 (NLT)

"Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who have the gift of leadership, those who speak in unknown languages."

List of Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28):

- Word of Wisdom
- Word of Knowledge
- Faith
- Healing
- Miraculous Powers
- Prophecy
- Discernment
- Tongues
- Interpretation of tongues
- Helps

Ministry

- Christianity is like tennis. It starts out 'all love'... and then you have to serve." – Unknown
- James 1:1 (NLT) "This letter is from James, **a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.**"
- Jude 1:1 (NLT) "This letter is from Jude, **a slave of Jesus Christ** and a brother of James."
- "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." John 15:15 (NIV)

- "Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God." – Warren Wiersbe, *On Being A Servant of God (Revised Edition)*
- **Divine Resources:** Everything we need comes from the Lord. God and God alone has an endless supply of all that we need.
- **Human Needs:** The people God calls us to serve have all kinds of needs – physical, emotional, relational, financial – but at rock bottom their greatest need is to be rightly related to God and His will.
- **Through Loving Channels:** We can only do the work God intends for us as He intends for us by loving those we serve. Our work means nothing if we don't have love.
- **For the Glory of God:** God is glorified by our service when people see Jesus and not us.
- Serving the Lord is better than anything
 - Psalm 84:10-11
- We are not saved by works but we are saved for works
 - Ephesians 2:8-10
- When we serve, we obey Jesus and become more like Him
 - Mark 9:35
 - Philippians 2:5-11

Tithing and Giving

What is tithing?

- Tithing means giving 10% unto the Lord
- Tithing was commanded under the Law of Moses
- Israelites gave 10% of everything - their grain, produce, fruit, wine, oil, livestock, etc.

Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:21-29, Deut. 12:17-18, 14:22-29, 2 Chron. 31:5

Tithing while Jesus was on earth

- In Jesus' day, the tithe was a legalistic ritual that the Pharisees practiced
- Matt. 23:23, Luke 11:42, 18:12
- More concerned about the letter of the Law (keeping the 10% rule)
- Than the Spirit of the Law (showing justice, mercy & faithfulness)
- And they were full of pride about their tithing

What about us today? Does tithing apply to Christians?

The New Testament never commands that believers give 10%.

However, it is a good place to start (a guideline), however, Christians are free from the Old Testament 10% rule or law. To try to keep the law is to fall from grace. Gal. 5:4

God is a Giver

We are motivated to give generously because God first loved us and gave us every spiritual blessing including His Son Jesus.

Ephesians 1:3-7, Romans 8:32

We should give joyfully because God loves a cheerful giver.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver." - 2 Corinthians 9:7

Purpose of Giving

1 Corinthians 9:7-14

Basically says that a preacher of the Gospel is worthy of his due and to be supported by the body of Christ.

1 Timothy 5:17-18

'The worker deserves his wages' We support the ministry that spiritually feeds our souls

Everything is God's

Everything we have belongs to God and we are only 'stewards' or managers over what we possess

1 Chronicles 29:14 – "Everything comes from you and we have given you only what comes from your hand"

Psalms 24:1 – "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it"

Basic Principle of Giving

2 Corinthians 9:6 – "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously"

2 Corinthians 8:7-9 – "But since you excel in everything....see that you also excel in this grace of giving"

Matthew 6:21 – "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Benefits or Rewards of Giving

Luke 6:38 – "Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you"

Matthew 6:19-20 – "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven..."

Summary

- Give cheerfully - 2 Cor. 9:7
- Pray about how much to give
- Give consistently - 1 Cor. 16:2
- Give privately - Matt. 6:3-4
- Give according to your means
1 Cor. 16:2, 2 Cor. 8:11
- Give sacrificially Luke 21:4
- Don't give under compulsion - 2 Cor. 8:12
- Be aware that the tithe can be a snare to legalism

- Remember that everything you have belongs to God
- Christian giving stores up treasures in heaven Matt. 6:19-21
- Teach your kids to tithe