

What We Value:  
Making Disciples

**I. Intro**

**What do these words have in common? Fly, Park, Ship**  
**What is the word for something that is a noun and a verb?**  
**Nerb**

**Is disciple a noun or a verb? It's a Nerb!**

It's an identity and it's an activity.  
And frankly you can't have one without the other.

Today we are starting a series on our values. We value making disciples.  
Today I want us to see what this value looks like for us as a church.

**God hasn't called us to do something great, he's called us to be a part of something great.**

If you are a disciple, but not discipling, you are missing what you should be a part of.  
If you are discipling, but not a disciple, you are missing who you are a part of.

**God has called each one of us to be a disciple who makes disciples.**

So today, those are our two points...  
Disciple as a noun.  
Disciple as a verb.

**II. Disciple as a Noun.**

Jason Bourne is one of the great action heroes of our day.  
He is a highly trained agent — to understate it — capable of winning a fight with nothing more than a rolled up magazine or a ballpoint pen.  
He is armed with unrivaled skill and know-how for every situation he faces.

In the first Bourne film, he wakes up from a failed mission, not remembering who he is, but quickly realizing all he is capable of doing. Bourne is determined to find out who he is.  
He doesn't seem to care that he can do things James Bond only dreams of doing; he wants to know who he is.

Why? Identity Comes Before Activity

Herein lies the parallel for the Christian life:

**We are often more drawn to what we can do for Jesus, rather than who we are in Jesus.**

What do I mean by that? We call ourselves Christians based on what we do... because I go to church, because I read my bible, because I listen to JoyFM, because I pray at the dinner table, or with my kids before I go to bed, I do lots of things for Jesus, so I am a Christian. And lots of us do all those things, but we still have this sense of loss, emptiness, confusion, and depression.

Why? Because doing all those things doesn't help us with whom we are!  
So, if disciple is a noun, an identity, what does that mean?

Do you know how many times in the New Testament the phrase 'in Christ' is used? 198 times in the NT.  
To be 'In Christ' is one of the most beautiful, amazing truths in the world.

To be in Christ means that we are behind Christ, under Christ, hidden in Christ.  
To be a disciple of Jesus, is to be in Jesus.

Now here's what that means.

To be a follower of Jesus is not behavior modification. That would be looking at the life of Jesus as a model and trying to live it. But what happens when we try to be patient? What happens when we try to be gracious? What happens when we try to be just nice to people? We might be able to for a little while, but the more we try, the more we realize we can't do it.

And not only that, we realize something about our hearts. There is something evil there. We are self-righteous, selfish, and we don't like people! That's sin. And that sin is what keeps us from God.

So here's what it means to be in Christ, it means that we hide ourselves in His perfect life. When we follow Christ, He gives us His life.

If also means that He gives us His death. We deserved to die for sin, but because Jesus lived a perfect life, He was able to take our death, the punishment of our death. And now He invites us to experience the great exchange. We can have His life, and His death. With no effort of our own.

And the way we appropriate the life and death of Jesus, is found in Jesus' first words in the gospel of Mark... **Mark 1:15**

Repent and believe. We repent, we make a 180 degree turn from ourselves, our own work, our own effort, and acknowledge that we can't do it, and put our belief, our faith in Jesus, to do it.

That's putting ourselves in Christ. We are trusting in his sufficiency.  
Has the radical truth of being in Christ melted your heart?

When it does, Jesus says it is very easy to be In Him... Repent and Believe.  
Now here is why that is critically important...

**Colossians 2:6** says, "In the same way that you received Christ Jesus as Lord, so walk in Him".

Why is this critical? Because we all know how to trust Jesus, but to realize that new identity can take a lifetime. And for most of us, we quickly go to what we can do instead of who we are.

But here is what Colossians 2:6 is telling us, **if you know how to become a Christian, you already know how to be the Christian you've become.**

**One theologian says it this way: the way you obtain your spiritual life is the way you maintain your spiritual life. –Peter Reid**

We became a follower of Jesus, by repenting of us, and trusting in His work. We don't receive Jesus and then do the rest, we every day practice repentance and faith. Repentance and faith.  
And that's what it means to be a disciple.

A mature disciple of Jesus is not necessarily someone who has great habits; a mature Christian is someone habitually practices repentance. They are someone who understands the beauty of what it means to be in Christ, so they regularly say, Father thank you that I am in Christ, not of my own effort. If I am trying to do anything on my own effort, show me, so I can trust in Christ alone. You see they come to the Father often because of who He is and His goodness.

Let's do a short exercise here...

I want to illustrate this, someone who is practicing repentance & faith. A disciple.

#### Part 1

I have a gift for someone; it's not based on you. It's based on me as a generous giver.

This gift is immediately available.

It's not hard for you to receive. You just have to change our mind about your need, and who is going to meet that need. It's open to someone who would come and put their faith in me.

#### Part 2

And so "?", the wonder of this gift is it is not a one time gift.

There's more that I have to offer. And so the invitation remains.

#### Part 3

And so "?", the wonder of this gift is it is not a one time gift. The giver has extreme abundance.

There's more that I have to offer. And so the invitation remains.

#### Part 4

The gift is so broad, and not based on you, so if you were to bring one other person, they too could have their needs met.

And my friends, that's when disciple goes from being a noun to a verb.

### **III. Disciple as a Verb.**

Once we understand our identity, and we begin to start living in it, we realize that God has called us to be a part of something great. And so we respond by making disciples.

So let's get super practical about this.

Who does it? How do we do it?

#### **a. Who does it?**

Disciples make disciples.

So, let me help with a very significant fallacy that exists in the Church?

Who can make disciples? Anyone who is in Christ!!

You see we think, you have to have all these skills, and experiences, and read all these books, and know how to spend three hours in the morning praying, before we can make disciples.

My friends, someone who makes disciples is someone who brings people to Jesus.

**John 1:35-42**

John 1:42 – He brought them to Jesus.

#### **b. How do we do it?**

**Formally & Informally.**

**Formally – DNA & Community Groups**

**Informally – Work place, neighborhood, etc.... Matt. 28:19**

If you are not doing it formally, you are probably not doing it informally.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

So, is disciple a noun or a verb? Well, it's both. It's a NERB.

And in the way Jesus understands disciple you can't be one without the other.

Here the invitation from Jesus today to be NERB's, disciples, who make disciples.

Are you a disciple of Jesus today? Jesus is inviting you to come and be in Him.

Are you making disciples today? If you have allowed your heart to be melted by that Jesus is inviting you to be a part of something great.

If you are not doing to informally, you are probably not doing it formally.

And if you are not doing it formally, the problem is that you haven't realized what it means to be 'In Christ'.

Can we just take 60 seconds here in silence and let the spirit work...