

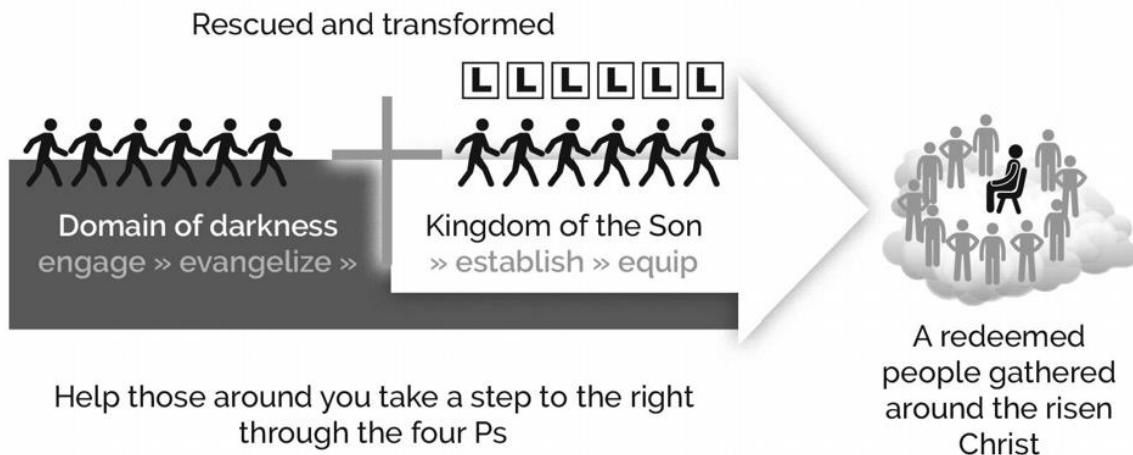
Sermon Series

"Discipleship — Practicing Relationships that Transform"

Ephesians 4:11-16

Mt 28:18-20 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Making people disciples of Jesus Christ and helping them grow in trusting Christ is the essence of the Christian life.



Eph 4:11-13 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Eph 4:14-15 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.;

Discipleship - is the responsibility of every believer to lead others to Christ, helping them to know Christ better and trust Him more in practical matters of life in the context of intentional, regular, and intimate relationships.

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Eph 4:15-16 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together **by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly,** makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Different Forms of Discipleship

- A believer can help unbelievers come to faith in Jesus Christ
- A less experienced believer can learn from a more experienced believer as to how to act by faith in practical areas of life.
- A more experienced believer can help less experienced believers to trust Christ in the practical circumstances of life.
- Believers at the same level of maturity can help one another to grow in the knowledge of Christ and in a life of trust in Christ.

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- This is what Jesus Christ commanded us to do.
- This is the meaning of our lives.
- This is something that is quite accessible and possible for every Christian.
- This is what brings the greatest joy and satisfaction in life.

"Discipleship — Practicing Relationships that Transform" | Part 1

Love One Another

John 13:34-35

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

A. Love Just as Christ Loves

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, **that you love one another: just as I have loved you,** you also are to **love one another.** ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Matthew 5:43-45 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matthew 5:46-48 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Phil 2:1-2 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Phil 2:3-5 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

Genuine love is caring for others, which is born our modest opinion of ourselves and high view of others.

Phil. 2:5-9 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

Romans 5:6-8 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, **he loved them to the end.**

B. Love with the Love of Christ

John 15:4-5 Abide in me, and I in you. **As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, **for apart from me you can do nothing.**

John 15:9-12 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.¹¹ **These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.**¹² **This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.**

1 John 4:11-12 Beloved, **if God so loved us,** we also **ought to love one another.**¹² No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another,** God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 3:11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, **that we should love one another.**

- The cross humbles us by showing that we deserve what Christ took on Himself there.
- The cross is the greatest proof of God's immense love for us.
- The cross unites us with Christ in His victory over the forces of darkness.
- The cross unites us with Christ in His eternal glory and triumph.

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