

The Importance of Discipleship

1 Man chose 12 other men who willingly submitted themselves to his tutelage and followed Him and all that He taught them. They did this for 3 ½ years. Disciples have distinguishing marks, characteristics, or attributes.

1) **Disciples follow Jesus** - The first distinguishing mark of a disciple is they follow.

19 verses

(Mat 4:19) Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

(Mat 8:22) But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

(Mat 9:9) As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.

(Mat 16:24) Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

(Mat 19:21) Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

Repeated in Mark and Luke. The significance is that every one of the gospels records these words of Jesus.

(Joh 1:43) The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me."

The analogy that Jesus used that precisely depicts this is sheep who follow their shepherd... they hear His voice and follow.

(Joh 10:27) My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

(Joh 21:19) This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

(Joh 21:22) Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me."

2) **Disciples are taught by Jesus.**

(Mat 23:8) But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren.

(Joh 6:45) It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT BY GOD.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

(Joh 8:28) Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and *that* I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.

3) Community/family is formed and established.

- Knowledge and understanding developed through listening, obeying, and practicing.
- They discussed topics with each other.
- They fought for place and position amongst each other.
- They argued with each other.
- They criticized and questioned each other and those outside themselves.
- The bonds of love developed among each other.
- Trust developed among each other.
- They matured together... just like siblings in a family do.

Then the D, B, R took place.

Isa 8:16 Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.

Psa 25:14 The secret of the LORD *is* with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

Amo 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

Mat 13:10-11 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? (11) He answered and said unto them, **Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.**

Act 1:2-3 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto **the apostles** whom he had chosen: (3) To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Act 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the **disciples**, and said, (the number of names together were **about an hundred and twenty**.)

Act 2:38-47 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call. (40) And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. (41) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. (42) And **they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship**, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. (43) And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. (44) And all that believed were together, and had all things common; (45) And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need. (46) And **they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,** (47) Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

(Act 6:1) And in those days, when the **number of the disciples was multiplied**, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

(Act 6:2) Then the twelve called **the multitude of the disciples** *unto them*, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

(Act 6:7) And the word of God increased; and **the number of the disciples multiplied** in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

(Act 9:1) And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

(Act 11:26) And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called **Christians** first in Antioch.

(Act 15:10) Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

Acts 18 – Aquila and Priscila

Lived with Paul in Corinth and worked alongside him being tentmakers.

Heard him teaching, preaching, and ministering for at least a year and ½ .

Traveled with Paul from Corinth to Ephesus.

Eventually without title, or notable position of any kind, they ministered the way of God more perfectly to a man named Apollos.

Act 18:24-28 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man *and* mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. (25) This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. (26) So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. **When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.** (27) And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; (28) **for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.**

Church met in houses

Act 8:3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing *them* to prison.

1Co 16:19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

Rom 16:3-5 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, (4) who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. (5) Likewise *greet* the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ.

Phm 1:1-3 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy *our* brother, To Philemon our beloved *friend* and fellow laborer, (2) to the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: (3) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- 1) Disciples today follow Jesus
- 2) Disciples today follow Jesus through apostolic doctrine.
- 3) Disciples today develop their families in community over time.
 - Knowledge and understanding develops through listening, obeying, and practicing.
 - We openly discuss topics with each other.
 - We don't fight for place or position among each other.
 - We may disagree on things, but we endeavor to keep the unity of the faith through the bond of love.
 - We are not criticizing and questioning each other's motives, but always desiring that the Lord will use our discussions to address issues that He wants to address in

our life.

- Over time, the bonds of love and appreciation will develop among each other.
- Trust will develop among each other.
- We will mature in the Lord together... just like siblings in a family do.

My hope and prayer is that the fruit of our cell groups is this:

1. Learn to turn to the lives & writings of the apostles and prophets to solidify our foundation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Eph 2:19-20 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, (20) having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

2. Humble enough to grow up and mature together as the living, breathing house of God (family of God) on earth.

Eph 2:21-22 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, (22) in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

3. Develop a discerning ear to the voice of His Spirit and learn to be led by Him.

Joh 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.