

- **What's a disciple** – one who submits themselves to Jesus and His way of life ... *This* is a Christian ([Gal2:20](#)) ... **Why do we make disciples** – who Jesus is, and what He has purchased through His death and resurrection ([Act20:28](#)) ... God graciously chooses to work thru your obedience in making disciples to fulfill His plan of redeeming the nations

WHO MAKES DISCIPLES

- Throughout Church history, this question has been asked and debated and wrongly understood ... Theologians and teachers have challenged [Mat28:18-20](#) and [Act1:8](#), suggesting these words only applied to the disciples Jesus was directly speaking to ... Others laid responsibility of GC upon the shoulders of the pastor, evangelist, and missionary ... Allowing people to dismiss the command of Jesus altogether, because they don't hold the title or possess the gift
 - Yes, the call to be witnesses for Christ was given to the 11 apostles, as was everything else Jesus taught ... They were commanded to pass everything on to others, including responsibility of GC ([28:20](#)) ... Paul's ministry great example: travel to key city, preach gospel, make disciples, plant church, train leaders, move on ... So, Paul could confidently say, "I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum" ([Rom15:19](#)) ... He sent out disciples to proclaim the gospel and disciple people who continued the same pattern "from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum" ... He modeled [Eph4:12](#)
 - Every Christian has been saved on purpose, for a purpose – "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do" ([Eph2:10](#)) ... Works prepared ahead of time, includes you making disciples of Jesus ... Why ... In doing so, God fulfills His plan; Jesus builds His Church; people from every tribe and language worship the One who saved them ... Again, [1Pet2:9](#)

WHERE ARE DISCIPLES MADE

- [Act1:8](#) is a ripple effect ... Everywhere people are located disciples are to be made ... Jesus gathers disciples and commissions them, in His likeness and authority, to proclaim gospel and make disciples of Him among all nations – places that are Jewish and those that are not ... God's plan of redeeming a people for Himself through Jesus has always included Gentiles ... The true people of God are not limited to one nation, nor to one geographical place, nor to one denomination ... The true people of God are those who are united to Christ, by grace through faith in Him
 - Everywhere people are located disciples are to be made ... While in our minds we equate *make disciples of all nations* with *doing missions overseas*, we are to *make disciples of any person not yet belonging to God's family* ... You begin with those you're already in relationship with, and then ripple out
 - Discipleship includes evangelism – sharing the gospel, explaining and helping people understand it ... The two are not separate from each other ... In declaring the gospel of Jesus, His purchase of our salvation and forgiveness of sins and reconciliation to God through His death and resurrection, we are inviting people to become disciples of Jesus – sons and daughters of God
 - This is the great privilege God invites us to do together – with Him and with each other ... [2Cor5:17-20](#) ... We are ministers of reconciliation – ambassadors, witnesses, through whom God is making His appeal to those around us ... Family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers ... Witnesses are compelled to testify what they know to be true and have experienced themselves
- As a local church, we are to be about making disciples of those not yet part of our church family, as well as making disciples of those in our church family ... It must be both/and ... Your church family is part of your "Jerusalem" that Jesus sends you into ... You and I are disciples of Jesus, who are learning the ways of Jesus and helping others to learn the ways of Jesus ... We do this together by means of God's Spirit and Word

- Just as we need to grow in maturity, so we need to grow in spiritual maturity ... We can't remain immature Christians ... We are to learn Christ together, so that together we grow up into Christ ... It's about the IN dimension of discipleship – growing as a family
- How often do you eat one meal a day ... Eating once a day can affect your mood, sleep, mind and ability to work ... Soon, you adjust to the emptiness and accept it as normal ... Limiting yourself to one day a week to be with God and one another, is like eating one meal a week ... It's not healthy ... No matter how strong you think your faith is – eating once a week will eventually kill your faith
- We need a balanced diet ... Meaning, I wonder how many times we say NO to things that God is actually wanting us to engage ... I'm calling us to live life together, to gather together beyond Sunday, to participate in things offered – even if what's offered isn't your cup of tea ... You participate cause it's an opportunity to gather with the family you're apart of ... This isn't about making you busier, nor about numbers ... It's about you growing in maturity ... Us growing as a family ... What the NT argues for ... What Christ calls us to be
- So, some things we say NO to, may in fact be God's answer to what we're praying for ... *God, would You grow Grace, would You unite us and lead us, would You give us opportunities to reach out to our neighbors, would You enable us to be the church You want us to be*
- We move forward – not backwards, and we embrace the changes in anticipation of where He's leading us