

- Most can repeat the Great Commission found in [Mat28](#) ... Most agree the commission of Jesus still applies to the Church ... Most agree that His commission is the primary task of the Church ... Yet, what we may know in our head is not always visibly practiced in our life
  - Struggle to define what a disciple is ... Some unconvinced it's their responsibility to disciple ... We simplify discipleship to merely studying Bible, or we raise the standard so high, people conclude it's unattainable ... My point – it seems that we know the right words to say, and right motions to do, however, we struggle to fully engage what a disciple looks like and how a disciple is called to live ... [spiritual health] ... [Disconnect](#)
  - What is a disciple? ... Why do we make disciples? ... Who are the people responsible for making disciples? ... Where are disciples made? ... How are disciples made?

## WHAT IS A DISCIPLE

- In Jewish context, students of a rabbi learned the Torah and traditions by listening, asking questions, observing how he lived ... Behavior of a rabbi held same weight as words of rabbi ... Graduates became rabbi by gaining their own students to teach and raise up ... A disciple, then, is one who learns and adopts the teachings and life of their rabbi
- Jesus comes along and changes everything ... Before a disciple was regulated by gender and one's proven ability ... With Jesus, He called unqualified people to follow Him as His disciples ... His invitation extends to the uttermost ... Any who answer His call, who come to Him in faith, are received ... Those with weak faith and those with strong faith are equally welcomed and counted among His disciples ([17](#)) ... Being a disciple of Jesus isn't about proving yourself worthy to be His disciple ... A disciple follows and obeys because they have already been counted worthy of being His disciple ... (Setting of [Jo20](#) & [Matt28](#)) ... It is Jesus who calls us and makes us His disciples
- Thus, if one is a follower of Christ, a Christian, then they are already a disciple of Jesus ... And being His disciple is now part of your identity and DNA ... Over the years, people have made distinctions between being a Christian and being a Disciple – the latter being greater than the former ... NT nowhere makes this distinction ... To be one is to be the other ... The call of Jesus is the same, whether you call yourself a Christian or a disciple ... [Gal2:20](#)
- [Mat9:9](#), Jesus: “Follow Me” ... Follow Jesus in a different direction than the one He found us walking ... We relearn how to live, how to think, how to act, how to speak, how to believe, how to trust, how to obey ... As a disciple, you ground yourself in the reality of who Jesus is, the result of what He has done, how He calls you to live in response
  - In belonging to Jesus, we belong to a Kingdom not of this world, one that He brings and establishes ... This Kingdom is ruled by a King that is not me ... My baptism declares my life in Him and my allegiance to Him
  - While we often associate our salvation and discipleship as being *for me*, our salvation and discipleship are deeply related to the salvation and discipleship of each other ... So that, in being baptized in the Godhead, we are likewise baptized into a Family – the Household of God ... The life Jesus calls me to live is one that is to be lived out in the community I belong to – the local church ... Together we grow in Christ: we worship, we serve, we pray, we learn, we eat together ... We extend grace, we seek forgiveness, we build up ... We point one another to Jesus – knowing my walk will not be your walk; still, we move towards Jesus together
  - We are called by our King to live as a Family who are Sent out to make disciples – of Him, by Him, and for Him ... To come under the authority of Jesus, to be His disciple, means you and I take up His mission ... What's His mission ... What's the point of making disciples ... Why does Jesus ask us to make disciples

## WHY DO WE MAKE DISCIPLES

- Why – Because of who Jesus is and what Jesus has accomplished through the Cross and Empty Tomb ... As said before, God invites you and me to participate in the work He is already doing all around us ... And the work He is doing is the work He has been doing since Adam and Eve were removed from the Garden of Eden ... Through OT, we see the plan of God unfolding, until the time of fulfillment, and **“the grace of God appeared bringing salvation for all people ... He gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for Himself a people for His own possession,”** [Tts2:11-14](#) ... [Eph1:4-5](#) ... [1Pe2:9-10](#)
  - Through Jesus, God has been redeeming a people, bringing them out of darkness and into the Kingdom of His Beloved Son – King Jesus ... And the people He redeems are those from every nation ... Every people group represented around the Throne of the King who purchased their salvation and restored them back to the One who made them [graphic]
  - In God’s graciousness, He chooses to work through our obedience to the Great Commission to fulfill His plan for redeeming the nations ... Every time a person responds to the gospel, and calls upon Jesus to be saved, they are removed from the dominion of darkness and transferred into God’s Kingdom ... Each time this happens, God’s Household grows ... Each time this happens, Jesus adds to the Church He is building ... Each time this happens, the eternal plan of God moves closer to the day of completion
  - We are not saved in a vacuum ... Our church does not exist in a vacuum ... We are saved for a greater purpose, and on purpose ... This purpose is seen as completely and perfectly fulfilled in [Rev4-5,7](#) ... **You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because You were slaughtered, and You purchased people for God by Your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation, [5:9](#)**
  - The One who was slaughtered for our salvation ... The One who purchased you and me for God ... The One who defeated the Cross and Grave, who sits upon the Throne, and who holds all authority over all people and places ... It is Him who says to every person who calls upon Him for salvation, “Now that you are My disciple, live as My disciple. And as you live as My disciple, lead other people in being My disciple. In this, is the plan of My Father completed, and My name glorified.” ... Who Jesus is, and what Jesus has achieved, are reason enough to compel us to live as His disciples and make disciples in His name

