

BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP

PIVOT: MATTHEW 28:19-20

This GRAND COMMAND Raises at Least Four Questions

I. What IS a Disciple?

II. How does one MAKE a Disciple?

III. How does one TRAIN a Disciple?

IV. Who QUALIFIES as a Disciple?

General Introduction

A. Various Authors ON THE Subject:

- 1. “Complaint:” We ALL appear to Miss the Boat in the Discipling Area”**
 - a. Leroy Eims, “The Lost Art of Disciplemaking” ...**
 - b. Bill Hull, “We still haven’t got it”...**
- 2. Problem: ALL give Different Prescriptions HOW “to retrieve” or “get it”**
 - a. ONE Publisher: Produced a “Disciple” Survey of the whole Bible: OT and NT apparently to cover the Waterfront!...**
 - b. Leroy Eims, a.o., addresses the following Topics:**

(i) Principle of Selection	(ii) Principle of Association
(iii) Principle of Instruction	(iv) Principles and Patterns in the NT
(v) Principle of Fellowship	(vi) Principles of Propagation
(vii) Principle of Encouragement	(viii) Principle of Preparation
(ix) Principle of “Few” Laborers	(x) Principle of Potential Workers
(xi) Principle of Modeling	(xii) Principle of Personal Involvement
(xiii) Principle of Productivity	(xiv) Principle of Selection
(xv) Principle of Training	(xvi) Principle of Dying unto Life
 - c. Bill Hull covers these Topics:**
 - (i) Come and SEE: Jesus’ Acts, Words, Life, Character.**
 - (ii) Come and FOLLOW: Jesus’ Vision, Example, Willingly, Believingly, Knowledgeably, Bonding with God, in Fellowship with others.**
 - (iii) Come and BE with: Jesus for Life, WITH others, in Love, in Sowing, LIKE Him, in FULL Commitment, in Hardships.**
 - (iv) Come and Remain in: Jesus, humbly, lovingly, confidently, as a Branch in the Vine, in the Spirit of Truth and Power**
 - d. Pastor Pete Anderson (One to One Discipleship) “disciples” as follows:**

Introduction: Flowchart: Paul/Helpers/Faithful Men/Others (2 Tim. 2:2)

 - (i) Knowing God: Who is Jesus, Do I have Assurance, What is God like?**

- (ii) **Disciplines of Grace: How to Study the Bible, to Pray, to Witness?**
- (iii) **The Church: What about My Heart, my Relationship to Others, The Holy Spirit, his Spiritual Gifts, my Abilities, Spiritual Warfare, Stewardship, Obedience, The Sacraments?**
- (iv) **Reproducing Disciples: How about “The Great Commission, Discipling Effectively?”**
- e. **Theological Dictionary of the New Testament**
 - (i) **Discipleship in the NT in General: Jesus/John/Pharisees. It “implies the existence of a personal attachment that shapes the whole life of the ‘learner,’ leaving no doubt who deploys the formative power.”**
 - (ii) **Discipleship in the case of Jesus**
 - (1) **The “Twelve” are called ... Others are not? ... He determines ...**
 - (2) **Personal Relationship ... All depends on Him ...**
 - (3) **Complete Commitment / Allegiance / Faith in Him ...**
 - (4) **Total Obedience to His Authority as the Messiah ...**
 - (5) **Renunciation of what is Dispensable (Family, etc.)..**
 - (6) **Obligation to Suffer with Him ...**
 - (7) **“Twelve:” Band/Failure/Growth/Eye-Witnesses/Tradition Bearers/Apostles**

3. ISSUE

- a. **ALL the Materials are GOOD and HELPFUL ... BUT:**
- b. **They are ALSO ALL DIFFERENT (Not enough Rhyme or Reason”)**
- c. **REFLECTING SELECTIVE Biblical Data ONLY**
- d. **LIKE a (small) number of “Plumbs from a Fruit Basket” of Scripture...**
- e. **AND USUALLY WITHOUT much of an impact for two reasons.**
 - 1. **Individual, not Fully Integrated and Coordinated, “building blocks” ...**
 - 2. **Not Presented with the Authority of Scripture that demands Obedience**
- f. **NEED FOR THE SIMPLY PROFOUND AND PROFOUNDLY SIMPLE FULL-ORBED, INTEGRATED, COORDINATED Biblical Teaching.**

B. SOME BIBLICAL FACTS IN GENERAL

- 1. **Term ONCE in the OT (Is.) and some 250 times in the NT, but ONLY in the Gospels and the Acts.**
- 2. **Jesus, John the Baptist, Pharisees (& Paul/Acts 9:25) ALL had “disciples.”**
- 3. **Jesus had the “Twelve” but ALSO others (Joseph of Arimathaea).**
- 4. **The Church consists of “Disciples” (Acts 13:52; 14:20) AS Believers (Acts 6:7; 14:22 // John 8:31) who possess the Spirit (Compare John 14:15ff, 15:26ff with Acts 9:17; 13:52; 19:1ff).**
- 6. **Doubtless the SUBSTANCE of Discipleship is also in the Rest of the NT.**
- 7. **ALL this must be taken into consideration**

PROPOSAL

**Toward a Full-Orbed, Comprehensive, Integrated, and Coordinated
Summary of the Teaching of Scripture on the Topic of “Disciple”**

- I. What IS a Disciple?**
 - II. How does one MAKE a Disciple?**
 - III. How does one TRAIN a Disciple?**
 - IV. Who QUALIFIES as a Disciple?**
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I. What is a “Disciple”

- A. “Formally” RADICAL
CORE: Disciples (Greek Term) are**
 - (i) “Learners” / “Pupils” / “Students”**
 - (ii) “Called to be Sent” (Mk. 3:14; Lk. 6:13; John 20:21)**

1. “Called To”

- a. Follow: Mt. 4:19; Mk. 1:16-20, whatever the cost: Lk. 9:21**
- b. Adhere Regardless of Others: John 6:68**
- c. Absorb: John 8:31; Acts 2:42**
- d. Surrender Radically and Totally: John 11:16**
- e. Renounce Everyone and Everything else: Lk. 14:26, 33**

2. “Sent To”

- a. Be an Apprentice / “Get their feet wet:” Lk. 9:1ff, 23ff; 10:1ff**
- b. Mirror their Trainer to a “T”: Lk. 6:40; 9:23-24; 1 Cor. 11:1**
- c. Embrace the Implication: John 12:24; 21:18-19; Phil. 3:10**
- g. Experience the Consequences: John 15:18**
- i. Multiply: Acts 6:7; 1 Thess. 1:8**

B. “Substantively” TOTAL

1. In General: Mt. 28:19-20

- a. Baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, as Members of the Church**
- b. They are TAUGHT to observe ALL THAT Christ Commands, as stated and corroborated in “Sum” in the Gospels (John 8:31) and in “Substance” in the rest of the NT (Rom. 1:5; 16:26)**

2. In Particular

- a. DEVOTED DISCIPLE: Acts 2:42ff: Four Means of Grace**
- b. ASSURED DISCIPLE: John 15:1ff: Holiness of Life**
- c. PRODUCTIVE DISCIPLE : Mt. 28:19-20; 1 Thess. 1:6-8: Grand Command**
- d. UNSTOPPABLE DISCIPLE: Mt. 4:19; Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Pet. 4:10-11: Spiritual Gifts**

Concluding Note: Three Biblical Theses

- 1. True Converts possess the Definitive Heart of Jesus in Regeneration (Rom. 6:6-11), the Definitive Righteousness of Jesus in Justification (2 Cor. 5:21), and the Definitive Holiness of Jesus in Sanctification (Heb. 10:10).**
- 2. Regeneration gives them a New VISION (2 Cor. 5:16), Justification a New PASSION (Is. 6:8), and Sanctification a New MISSION (Mt. 28:19-20).**
- 3. This means that the Prayer for Laborers, urged by Jesus (Mt. 9: 38), has been heard. Since every Christian/Disciple has a New Vision, a New Passion and a New Mission by definition, every Christian is also and simultaneously a New Laborer BY DEFINITION! In principle the Laborers are ABUNDANT in number, but in practice MUST be trained to be operational and effective!**

II. HOW does one MAKE Disciples

1. Evangelism

- a. Evangelism Syllabus**
- b. Evangelism BOOKLET**
- c. ASAP: Evangelism TRACT**
- d. ASAP: Evangelism BANNER**

2. Unto HOPEFUL Converts/Disciples

- a. “Call on the Name of the Lord and you will be saved”**
Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21; Rom. 10:13
- b. This is to say: Salvation is**
NOT for the Earning in Whole or in Part
NOT for the Taking, Explicitly or Implicitly
BUT for the Asking in Utter Humility ONLY/ONLY/ONLY!

III. HOW does one TRAIN Disciples

- 1. Model and Teach (Acts 1:1):**
(20% in the Classroom and 80% in the Field)
- 2. To Observe EVERY Command (Rom. 1:5; 16:26)**

IV. Who QUALIFIES as A Disciple

- 1. DEVOTED Converts/Disciples: Acts 2:42ff**
To Teaching, Fellowship, The Lord’s Supper and Prayer
- 2. ASSURED Disciples: John 15:1ff**
By Abiding in the Vine through the Word and Prayer
- 3. PRODUCTIVE Disciples/“apostles:” Mt. 28:19-20**
By Making and Training Disciples
- 4. UNSTOPPABLE Disciples: Mt. 4:19; Rom. 12:3ff; 1 Pet. 4:10-11**
By Identifying and Pursuing one’s Giftedness

APPENDIX I
**MODEST AND ADJUSTABLE PROPOSAL FOR A FOUR-YEAR
DISCIPLESHIP CURRICULUM, BATHED IN DISCIPLINES OF
GRACE, GUIDED BY PRINCIPLES OF IMMERSION IN
SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

TRAINING COURSES: YEAR ONE

1. “EVANGELISM” 2. “SPEAKING” 3. “SERVING”

Conducted by the Threefold Leadership of the Church:

1. EVANGELISTS, 2. PASTOR TEACHERS 3. DEACONS

With the Objective to Train All Members in Each Area

Until their Giftedness Emerges in one of the three Areas

1. Evangelistic Gift, 2. Speaking Gift, 3. Serving Gift

Through 20% in the Classroom and 80% in the Field

(Training consists of Teaching, Modeling, Observing, Refining and Certifying)

This process will acquaint students with the Full *Trinitarian* and *Triadic* Salvation Gospel (Regeneration/Justification/Sanctification, and with major strands in Biblical Theology and Ecclesiology, and ensure that the Threefold Leadership with the Assistance of the Threefold Giftedness can mobilize the Membership in all Three Areas, with a view to Biblical Multiplication.

YEAR TWO THROUGH FOUR

Each Year Ample time should be given (1) to Practical Evangelism, Practical Preaching and Practical Service alongside Pertinent Readings, and (2) to Courses in Missions in addition to the Focus upon the following Studies

STUDY COURSES YEAR TWO

The Second Year Should Include a Focus on Biblical Studies, such as Survey of the OT and the NT, Hermeneutics as well as an OT & NT Book Study.

STUDY COURSES YEAR THREE

The Third Year Should Include a Focus on Theological Studies, such as the Several Heads of Doctrine, and a Survey of Church History

STUDY COURSES YEAR FOUR

The Fourth Year Should Focus on Christian Ethics, Christian Apologetics, and Further Fine-tuning for Ministry

APPENDIX II

PIVOTAL “DISCIPLE” VERSES IN THE NT

- TOOLS** [☐Mat 10:24](#) The disciple is not above *his* master, nor the servant above his lord.
- TOOLS** [☐Mat 10:25](#) It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more *shall they call* them of his household?
- TOOLS** [☐Mat 10:42](#) And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.
- TOOLS** [☐Mat 27:57](#) When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple:
- TOOLS** [☐Luk 6:40](#) The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.
- TOOLS** [☐Luk 14:26](#) If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.
- TOOLS** [☐Luk 14:27](#) And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.
- TOOLS** [☐Luk 14:33](#) So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.
- TOOLS** [☐Jhn 9:28](#) Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples.
- TOOLS** [☐Jhn 18:15](#) And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and *so did* another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest.
- TOOLS** [☐Jhn 18:16](#) But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter.
- TOOLS** [☐Jhn 19:26](#) When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!
- TOOLS** [☐Jhn 19:27](#) Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own *home*.
- TOOLS** [☐Jhn 19:38](#) And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave *him* leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.
- TOOLS** [☐Jhn 20:2](#) Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.
- TOOLS** [☐Jhn 20:3](#) Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

- TOOLS** [☐Jhn](#) [20:4](#) So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.
- TOOLS** [☐Jhn](#) [20:8](#) Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.
- TOOLS** [☐Jhn](#) [21:7](#) Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt *his* fisher's coat *unto him*, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.
- TOOLS** [☐Jhn](#) [21:20](#) Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?
- TOOLS** [☐Jhn](#) [21:23](#) Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what *is that* to thee?
- TOOLS** [☐Jhn](#) [21:24](#) This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.
- TOOLS** [☐Act](#) [9:10](#) And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I *am here*, Lord.
- TOOLS** [☐Act](#) [9:26](#) And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.
- TOOLS** [☐Act](#) [9:36](#) Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and alms deeds which she did.
- TOOLS** [☐Act](#) [16:1](#) Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father *was* a Greek:
- TOOLS** [☐Act](#) [21:16](#) There went with us also *certain* of the disciples of Caesarea, and brought with them one Mnason of Cyprus, an old disciple, with whom we should lodge.

APPENDIX III

2. “Assured Disciples”

Assurance, a Biblical Doctrine: YES/WHY/HOW

1. YES: OT and NT

a. OT: Is. 22:11-17

b. NT: Heb. 4:14-16; 6:9-12, 13-120; 7:22-25; 10:19-20; 11:1; 1 John 5:13

Problem: Possible Self-Deception and Presumption: Mt. 7:21, 24; Heb. 2:9; Jam. 1:22; 1 John 1:8; 4:20; Rev. 3:2

2. WHY: TWO-FOLD FOUNDATION

a. Based on Christ: Heb. 4:14-16; 7:22-25; 1 Pet. 1:8

b. Based on God’s Word/Promise: Heb. 6:13ff

3. HOW: Commensurate to the Infilling of the Spirit and the Experience of Holiness

a. Holiness: 1 John 3:19 // Psalm 51; Heb. 6:10-11

b. Holy Spirit: 1 John 3:24 // Rom. 8:12-16

Note

**BAPTISM WITH THE SPIRIT: Once and For All Historical Event
(Acts 2:1ff)**

**GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT : Once and For All Personal Event
(Acts 2:38)**

**FILLINGS WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT: Repeated
Historical Events (Acts 4:31) and
Personal Events (Eph. 5:18)**

**FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: Constant State of Overflowing
Barnabas / Surrender of Property (Acts 4:37; 11:24)
Stephen / Surrender of Life (Acts 7:55, 58)**

4. “Unstoppable Disciples”

“Spiritual Gifts”

1. THREE OFFICES

Evangelist (Eph. 4:11) / Pastor-Teacher (Eph. 4:11) / Deacon (Phil. 1:1)

2. THREE GIFTS

Evangelism (Mt. 4:19) / Speaking (1 Pet. 4:10) / Serving (1 Pet. 4:11)

2. THREE MANDATES

Evangelize Daily (Mt. 28) / Speak Daily (Eph. 4) / Serve Daily (Gal. 5)

**The Officers must TRAIN all the members in ALL Three Areas
UNTIL the Gift emerges.**

The Gift makes the Members UNSTOPPABLE

TRAINING:

20 % in the “Classroom” and 80% in the Field (Acts 1:1)

**Five Phases: Teaching / Modeling / Observing / Refining / Certifying
(2 Tim. 2:2)**