

Defining a Disciple

DiscipleShift, Session Two (Chap. 1&2)

Last week, we learned about the four types of church in North America. What is the focus and methodology of each?

- 1) Educational-
- 2) Attractional-
- 3) Missional-
- 4) Organic/House-

There are strengths with each, yet they are all somewhat incomplete biblically because they are missing something central and critical: _____

The Bible refers to “disciple” _____ times, yet only refers to “Christians” _____ times. Yet consider this, as many as 75% of Americans claim to be “Christian” (Gallup, 2015).

T / F All Christians are believers, but not all Christians are disciples.

In the intentional relational discipleship model, the focus is **biblical discipleship** and the methodology is **relational environments**.

The mission of the church, any church, Jesus’ church, is to _____
_____ who _____ !

What is the central command of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)? Why?

- a) Go
- b) Make disciples
- c) Baptizing them
- d) Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Compare Matthew 28:18-20 with Deuteronomy 6:5-9. What do they have in common?

Quoteable (DiscipleShift, Jim Putman & Bobby Harrington. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013)

“I believe that most Christians have divorced the teachings of Jesus from the methods of Jesus, and yet they expect the _____ of Jesus.” (p. 33)

“I believe his methods are just as _____ as his teachings....Discipleship is the emphasis. Relationships are the method...His primary method was life-on-life.” (p. 33)

The definition of a disciple must be biblical (as Jesus defined it) and clear. It must be simple enough for a child to understand but complex enough as it was meant to be. It’s a big problem, though, if people don’t have a common understanding of what a disciple is!

HEAD HEART HANDS

Matthew 4:19: “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”

Q. What's a disciple? (best synonym: _____)

A. A disciple is a person who is:

- Following Jesus (head)
- Being transformed by Jesus (heart)
- Joining in the mission of Jesus (hands)

Three Key Attributes of a Disciple

1) "Follow Me" **Head**

- the call or invitation which makes all following possible
- acknowledgement of Christ as Lord over our lives
- learning and submitting to the truth of Jesus
- moving from foolishness to wisdom

2) "And I Will Make You" **Heart**

- a promise of transformation
- a process of being changed by Jesus and becoming more like Him
- a developing of character and identity—real fruit!
- the imparting of spiritual gifts

3) "Fishers of Men" **Hands**

- a commissioning
- a call to and response of action
- joining Jesus in His mission
- living out a new purpose: seeking the kingdom first

What's the difference (if any) between a disciple and a...

- convert?
- church member?
- believer?

A disciple is someone who follows Jesus, is transformed by Jesus and joins with Jesus on His mission.

"Discipleship, at heart, involves transformation at the deepest levels of our understanding, affection, and will by the Holy Spirit, through the Word of God and in relationship with the people of God." (p. 49)

"Our goal is to present people as mature in Christ" (Col. 1:28). If discipleship is spiritual parenting, what is needed for successful raising of disciples?

Reflect: How am I reacting to this material? What questions or feelings arise within me?