

A Guide to

Basic Disciplemaking

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As we discuss the ministry of Christian Disciplemaking let us consider that making disciples is the **means** by which God has provided a way for Christians to have a **sound faith** and **practice** as they live out their Christian Life. It is a **focused time of learning** which is vital to Christian life, usually accomplished in the **early years** just after one's conversion to Christ. **Disciplemaking** was **instituted by Jesus Himself** and was the means that He used to bring His disciples to **Christian maturity**. Further, it was His **mandate** to the church to foster and **promote** the **expansion** of the **Kingdom** which He commissioned the church to carry out until the end of the age (Matt 28:18-20).

Matthew 28:18-20 - 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 **"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. " NASB

What is a Christian disciple?

A Christian disciple is one who knows and understands the Gospel, has repented of sin, believed on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, and characteristically ***follows after, learns, and practices*** the teaching, disciplines and traditions of Christ. Jesus called His first disciples to ***"follow Him."***

Matthew 4:18-22 - 18 And walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 And He said to them, **"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."** 20 And they immediately left the nets, and followed Him. 21 And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. 22 And **they immediately left the boat and their father, and followed Him.** NASB

Those fishermen left their nets and **committed to Him** and His teaching. So it is with everyone who responds to Christ's call to discipleship. **Christians are Christ followers.**

Luke 5:27-28 - 27 And after that He went out, and noticed a tax-gatherer named Levi, sitting in the tax office, and He said to him, "**Follow Me.**" 28 **And he left everything behind, and rose and began to follow Him.** NASB

Luke 14:25-28 - 25 Now great multitudes were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26 "**If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.**" 27 "**Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.**" NASB

Jesus calls us into a **devoted life** of **worship** and **service** unto Him. He will have **no rivals** in our lives that take a **higher place** than our devotion to Him. We are called to **forsake** our **old ways** of **life** and **commit** to His way of life. We exchange the way of **sin** and **self** for a **new life** in **Christ**. That **new life** brings not only **salvation** from sin and death and the hope of eternal life, but a **new life** of **delight**, **joy**, and a deep sense of direction and purpose. When we follow Christ, we begin to live for what is **truly valuable** and **virtuous**, and we pursue the **highest things** in life, even the **glory** of **God**. And Christ loves us enough to call us to life's highest ideal, even God's greatest commandment, calling us to **love Him** wholeheartedly. "***You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all you mind. This is the great and foremost commandment.***" (Matthew 22:35-40). A right response to Christ is **motivated** by genuine **commitment** to **love** and **obey** Him **wholeheartedly**. We cannot serve Christ while cherishing worldly idols **above** Him. He is most glorified when we obey and follow Him as the object of our **love** and **devotion**.

John 14:21 - 21 "**He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me;** and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him." NASB

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 - 14 For the **love of Christ controls us**, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and He died for all, that **they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.** NASB

What is a Christian disciplemaker?

Christian disciples pattern their lives after Christ, they **follow Him** and do what He does. The book of Acts records many examples of those who learned and **followed Christ's** teaching. In short, they went and **discipled the nations** and established the Kingdom of God in much of the known

world at that time in history. And church history is full of this same success right down to our own present generation. In fact, we **Christians today** are the **fruit** of the **labor** of the **church** in **every generation making disciples** since the time of Christ.

Now if you are a Christian, you also are *a disciple, a follower of Christ*. His “**great commission**” to His first twelve followers (Matthew 28:18-20) **applies to you** as well. You have been commissioned to “go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you.” As a disciple, a follower of Christ, you too have been commissioned to **make disciples** because **all Christians make disciples**. It is the **nature** of **discipleship**. And this is how in a spiritual sense the **church reproduces** itself in history, as we make new disciples, who in turn, make disciples.

Christian disciplemakers are **growing Christians** who **help other Christians** follow the **pattern Jesus** set for the **twelve**. Mark Dever says “**discipling is helping others follow Jesus.**” That is a great definition! Christian disciplemakers evangelize and teach the disciplines of Christ to those who commit to listen, believe, and follow. We clearly see the **results** of the first disciples’ **obedience** to **Christ’s command** in the narrative of the book of Acts, and the results of every Christian generation since then in Church history. And **every new generation faces the same task** and **privilege**, to go and **make disciples** in **our day** and in **our place** and beyond.

Consider what this looked like in Jesus ministry. **Jesus’** divine **method** of **disciplemaking** takes an unregenerate person, **transforms** him by the power of the Spirit through faith in Christ (evangelism), **grounds** him in how to live the Christian Life through the Word, and **releases** him into the world to **continue** the **process** of evangelizing and making disciples of others. And so we see also in **Jesus method** what **disciplemaking** truly **IS**. It is **what Jesus did** with the **twelve**. Those who receive Christ need to

learn **how to live** the **Christian life**. They must be personally instructed in the fundamental principles of Christian living.

- daily meditation on the Word
- daily communion with God through prayer
- regular Christian worship, fellowship, and service in the Church. (2 Peter 1:5-8)

Effective discipling produces **growing Christians**, who are able to evangelize and **make disciples** on their **own**. Christian disciples are **discipling disciples**. They are Christians who have come to enough **maturity** to live **healthy Christian lives** that are **fruitful** and **productive**. In short effective discipling produces Christians equipped to live the Christian Life and make disciples of others, just like Jesus and the twelve. They **help others follow Jesus**.

Consider discipling in our role of the priesthood of all believers.

1 Peter 2:5, 9 - 5 you also, as living stones, **are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.** .. 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, **that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him** who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; NASB

What is Christian discipleship?

Discipleship is really just living the Christian Life. But the word emphasizes that **part** of **Christian Life** that includes being **obedient** to **Christ** in **discipling**. Discipling takes place within *close personal relationships*. Although a teacher or writer may do a certain amount of **"discipling"** through books, Bible study lessons, or audio-recordings, fully effective discipling does **more** than **communicate information** and **stimulate application**. It also focuses on personal situations, questions, desires, and needs through personal counseling. It is focused on **everyday situations** and **helping others follow Jesus** in the everyday stuff of the Christian Life. This will be most **effective** when discipling and disciple enjoy a **close, trusting, personal relationship**. Such a relationship will resemble that between Jesus and His disciples.

The disciplemaker's life should be an *example* of the things being taught to the disciple. Discipling will take enough **integrity** that your life as a discipler is **genuinely** reflecting the kind of **godly life** that others can **follow**. You are in a sense saying to them, come follow me as I follow Jesus.

2 Thessalonians 3:7-9 - 7 For you yourselves know how **you ought to follow our example**, because **we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you**, 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we might not be a burden to any of you; 9 not because we do not have the right to this, but **in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, that you might follow our example**. NASB

If we are going to help others follow Jesus, then **we must** also be **following Him**. Thus, the **disciplemaker** is **accountable** to the **disciple** as well. We are all learning to grow together.

Luke 6:40-41 - 40 "A pupil is not above his teacher; **but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher**. NASB

Instruction in the **knowledge** of **God** and His Kingdom is a **fundamental part of discipling**. Biblical instruction fosters Christian **maturity**, which when reached, qualifies the disciple to making disciples on his or her own. Thus **discipling** is **focused** on bringing the disciple to Christian **maturity**. This means they have learned **how to live the Christian Life** and walk in the **basic disciplines** of Christian Life. They must be **personally instructed** in the **fundamental principles** of Christian living.

- daily meditation on the Word
- daily communion with God through prayer
- regular Christian worship, fellowship, and service in the Church. (2 Peter 1:5-8)

If a disciple has not learned to **feed themselves** on the **Word of God daily**, and how to **commune with God in prayer and fellowship regularly** with other godly Christians, they have not learned how to live the Christian Life. They must also realize that these basic disciplines

should have the effect of **transforming us** so that we become more **like Christ** in our **character** and in our **practice**. The Christian Life is a **godly life** of virtue fueled by the **Word, prayer, and regular fellowship**.

2 Peter 1:5-8 - 5 Now for this very reason also, **applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence**, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 **For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.** NASB

Jesus left all Christians a *mandate* to make disciples in His **Great Commission** (Matthew 28:18-20). The visible church has been **slow** in heeding Christ's call to **nurture new believers** as they as they **grow** in grace and knowledge of God's Word. Consider that a **healthy church** should be filled with Christians who **actually** do the hard **work** of **nurturing new believers** in the faith so that they can enjoy the **maturity** of a **godly life**, and better yet, put the glory of God on display by the way that they live!

Acts 14:21-22 - 21 And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had **made many disciples**, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 **strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith**, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God." NASB

May God grant us deep desire to walk after the example Christ set for us! We have been called to high and holy privilege of making disciples! (Matthew 16:24-25)

Qualifications for the Disciplemaker

Are you **spiritually mature** enough to make disciples? Does your life exemplify **effective, productive Christian living** that will instruct and encourage disciples? Does the **Holy Spirit reign** in your life over your **sinful passions** and vices? Is your love and enjoyment of God clearly

evident in the way you live? When you sin, do others see you **humbly confess** and **repent**? Those are good questions for any Christian as they consider their spiritual health. Clear **evidence of growing spiritual maturity is fundamental** to your **effective disciplinemaking**. Therefore as we think about our role as a discipler, helping others follow Jesus, let us briefly consider our own spiritual health, and some qualifications for being and effective disciplemaker.

1. **Spiritual maturity** – If we are going to help others follow Jesus, then **we must** also be **following Him**. The disciplemaker's life should be an *example* of the things being taught to the disciple. Discipling will take enough **integrity** that your life as a discipler is **genuinely** reflecting the kind of **godly life** that others can **follow**. You are in a sense saying to them, come follow me as I follow Jesus. Consider Paul's example to the Thessalonians.

2 Thessalonians 3:7-9 - 7 For you yourselves know how **you ought to follow our example**, because **we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you**, 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we might not be a burden to any of you; 9 not because we do not have the right to this, but **in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, that you might follow our example**. NASB

Now see here the importance of our own **spiritual maturity**. If helping others follow Jesus

means teaching them to **live the Christian Life effectively** and productively, we must ask, is

our Christian Life **effective** and **productive**? Are we loving Christ and also our neighbor, in

the church and outside the church? Does our life reflect the **basic disciplines** feeding

ourselves daily on the Word of God? Are we communing daily with God in prayer? Do we

fellowship regularly with other godly Christians? Is all of this **transforming** our lives and making us more like Jesus? See here a healthy gauge of our own spiritual health.

2. **Commitment to Christ** – As we help others follow Jesus it is important to exemplify a life that has **Christ in first place**. This means we generally have our **life's priorities** in the **right order**. Our relationship with **God and Christ**, our **marriage and family, career, church**, and **relations to others** need to be handled in a way that honors God and is consistent with Jesus teaching, and **generally in that order**. If you spend too much of your time on lower life priorities so that your relationship with God and your marriage is on the rocks, it should be obvious that you're **not qualified to guide others** in healthy Christian living. Therefore it is important for the discipler to have the **commitment to Christ** in the **highest place**, and therefore a **properly ordered set of life priorities**.

Ephesians 5:15-17 - 15 Therefore **be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as**

wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17 So then do not be

foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. NASB

3. **Separation from sin** – Disciples who are helping others to follow Jesus must obviously be walking and living in **repentance from sin**. This is not to say we never sin, but that our life is **not dominated** by any **sin** and that when we do sin we deal with it properly in **confession and repentance**. In fact, this is one of the great lessons we must teach those we disciple, that is, confession and repentance of sin and the humility of recognizing our own sinfulness and dealing with it in a godly way (2 Cor 7:9-11). Obedience to the Word is a main qualification in discipling. If you're not doing the Word, you cannot lead others to do the Word.

James 1:21-22 - 21 Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, **in humility receive the word implanted**, which is able to save your souls. 22 But **prove yourselves doers of the word**, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. NASB

4. **Ability to independently study the Bible** – Of course one important aspect of Christian life is **growing** in the grace and **knowledge of God** through the **Word**. Our faith is didactic and we are always learning. Young Christian believers must learn how to **feed themselves** on the **Word** and grow in an understanding of Christ and His teaching. As Christ followers we must learn “**every that He commanded**” (Matt 28:20), and also to **teach others** the same. One main lesson you will be teaching those you disciple is how to both study and understand the Bible.

Matthew 28:18-20 - 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 **teaching them to observe all that I commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. " NASB

5. **Ability to effectively counsel others from Scripture** – As new believers learn to **navigate** the **Christian life**, they will have all kinds of questions about how to honor God as they **relate** to the **world** and **others**. Helping others follow Jesus means that we know **how to find the wisdom of God** in life's many and varied situations so that we can honor Him with godly choices. We may not always know the right answers and choices for life's complex situations, but we need to know how to **guide them** to **find the answers** in the **Word**, and also sometimes **seek** the help and **advice of godly pastors** in the church. In fact, one lesson they must learn is to discern who godly Christian leaders are and also to submit their lives unto their leadership and guidance.

Hebrews 13:7 - 7 **Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you**; and considering the result of their conduct, **imitate their faith**. NASB

Hebrews 13:17 - 17 **Obey your leaders, and submit to them**; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you. NASB

6. Ability to clearly and spontaneously articulate the Gospel – The Christian life is never detached from the Gospel. The Person and the Work of Jesus is at the heart of everything we do. We are **always** and ever **living in relationship to Him**, and always live with our minds saturated with the wisdom, promises, and exhortations that Gospel brings. It is the food of our very lives and like a fountain of holy cleansing, it is **living water** to our souls. New believers must learn the Gospel well, not only so that they can be **assured** of their **own salvation** and what they have believed, but also so they can **teach others**. One main reason for this is **every Christian** needs to learn to **evangelize** and **make disciples** of others which cannot be done without an **ability to clearly articulate what the Gospel is**.

Colossians 4:5-6 - 5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. **6 Let your speech always be with grace**, seasoned, as it were, with **salt**, so that you may **know how you should respond to each person**. NASB

To be sure, one does not have to meet every one of these qualifications without flaw to start

discipling, but they are **general guidelines** to determine the **level** of our **spiritual health**. Here

are a few more important probing questions to help gage your spiritual health.

- Does your **commitment to Christ** dominate your lifestyle? Are you disciplined in the ways of Jesus and is this exemplified by the **fruit of the Spirit** and through **basic Christian disciplines** such as:
 - Daily meditation on the Word
 - Daily communion with God through prayer
 - Regular Christian worship, fellowship, and service in the Church
- Are you **acutely sensitive** to the Holy Spirit's **conviction of sin**, and do you and **deal with sin** quickly through **confession, faith and repentance**.
- Do you know **how to study the Bible** and explain its meaning? Can you teach to others to do so? Do you study (at any level or in any way) the Bible on a regular basis?

- Can you provide **basic biblical counseling** to those seeking direction through life's difficulties? Are you equipped to teach others to live so as to glorify God?
- Can you clearly **articulate the Gospel concisely, accurately, and persuasively**? Below is an excellent example of how this can be done.

The Initiation of Discipling: Evangelism

Fundamental to the **discipling process** is of course **Evangelism**. Of course if you're going to have someone to disciple, they must be willing to **embrace Christ** with **faith** and **repentance**. That is, unless you have a kind of **discipling relationship** with someone you are **evangelizing**. This is actually a very effective way to bring someone to faith in Christ. To meet regularly with them doing "**one to one**" reading through the **Bible**, and/or going over different passages of Scripture and different **biblical doctrines** to help someone come to **understand the Gospel** and thereby believe and be saved. It also helps if possible, to bring them into your life and allow them to see how you live and how the power of godliness affects your life. At some point they will need to come in repentance to Christ and embrace Him by faith alone for righteousness before God to be saved. At that point a full blown discipling relation can begin and should continue for two or more years. So it is therefore incumbent upon us to be **sharing the Gospel** with others **in our sphere of life** (family, work, neighbors, acquaintances) in order to bring them to **saving faith** and have someone to disciple. This is something the twelve did very effectively and ended up by God's grace reaching much of the Greco-Roman world of their generation. This is what Jesus taught the twelve, and then **commanded them to teach us** (Matt 28:19-21).

Luke 24:45-49 - 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; 47 and **that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations**, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 "You are witnesses of these things. 49 "And behold, I am sending forth the

promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." NASB

Acts 1:7-8 - 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; 8 **but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and **even to the remotest part of the earth.** " NASB

2 Corinthians 5:20 - 20 Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, **be reconciled to God.** NASB

In order for us to be effective in **sharing the Gospel**, we will need to do **evangelism** in the way of the **Master**. Here are four important ways.

1. Learn the biblical Gospel – People cannot be saved in any other way than by the hearing of the Gospel. This is how biblical saving faith comes to people. Salvation is surely God's work, granting faith through regeneration, but that happens in response to the Gospel.

Romans 10:12-17 - 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him; 13 for "Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!" 16 However, they did not all heed the glad tidings; for Isaiah says, " Lord, who has believed our report?" 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. NASB

Therefore it is important for us to know how to **articulate the Gospel clearly and winsomely**. **First, the essential parts** of the Gospel need to be clearly understood. The essentials are;

God is both our sovereign Creator and our righteous Judge. (Neh 9:6, Psa 98:9) God therefore has the right of ownership over us by virtue of creating us, and He has the right to punish or reward us by virtue of his royal, judicial office. And because God is both our Creator and

Judge, we are doubly accountable to Him for all our behavior - word, thought, and deed.

Man was created by God, in God's image, to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. But man sinned against God by disobeying His holy law. Man therefore separated himself from God's holy and satisfying presence, and incurred His wrathful displeasure. (Gen 1:27, Rom 1:18, 3:23)

Jesus Christ's death was the substitute payment for the penalty that we deserved for our sin. His death is God's only provision for the forgiveness of man's sin and the appeasement of God's wrath against him. (Isa 53:6, John 3:36, Acts 4:12)

We are called to respond to this good news in repentance and belief, turning away from our sin and self-sufficiency toward God, and trusting in the shed blood of Jesus Christ as the substitute penalty that we deserved for our sin.

Secondly, we need to share the Gospel in a loving and winsome (appealing, engaging) way. People not only need to hear the words of the Gospel but need to hear it in the TONE of the Gospel. As ambassadors of God's love and grace we are responsible to represent Christ in a way that expresses God's love and grace.

2. Pray for opportunities to communicate the biblical Gospel to unbelievers – Surely those who will come to faith in Christ have been chosen and called by God. It is important then to remember that God is sovereign in the process of saving people and so we can do it patiently and in a non-forceful way.

Acts 13:48- 48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and **as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.** NASB

We should pray that God will use us to reach others and that He will have mercy on those who we share the Gospel with, and that He will grant opportunities to share the Gospel with unbelievers. Maybe our lack of success has to do with the fact that we rarely engage God to save people before we engage people.

3. **Take advantage of those opportunities as they arise** – As we pray we should expect God to answer and provide opportunity. We should look for opportunities to share with people and learn different ways to engage them and move conversations toward the Gospel. There are many helpful teaching available about how to do this.
4. **Pray that God will open hearts, grant repentance of sin and faith to believe, and bring sinners into His kingdom.** – When we are focused on seeing others come to faith the Lord will use us to do exactly that. It certainly starts with a desire to be obedient and be a witness for Christ and all the good things He has done for us. Then let us bring that desire to God and ask Him for success. Many great evangelists in history have attributed much of their success to effective and fervent prayer for the ability to evangelize and the work of God in the hearts of those who hear them.

Consider Who You Should Disciple

Since we are all discipling disciples of Christ, we should always be looking for opportunities to disciple others. It is our responsibility in the church to nurture new believers in the faith and see them learn to live effective and productive Christian lives. We should be **prayerfully considering** others around us and **look for newer believers** who need this vital help. Of course, **men should disciple men** and women should women whenever possible, as it would be inappropriate to develop the kind of close personal relations with members of the opposite sex required in discipling. Look for someone at work, within your family, your neighbors, your friends, or at church. Ask that person if they'd like to be disciplined. Or if they are an unbeliever, ask if they would like to meet regularly and read the Bible together.

Let us not disregard our responsibilities to evangelize and make disciples of people everywhere. It is the Lord's Great Commission to us.

Matthew 28:18-20 - 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
19 **"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing

them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. " NASB

Here are some **important things to remember** once you have someone to disciple.

Commitment of Disciplemaking

1. The Commitment of the Disciplemaker - To the task of discipling and being a godly example - The discipling maker must commit to carrying out all aspects of a healthy mentoring relationship. These include **teaching, praying, encouraging, rebuking, serving, counseling, befriending, and exemplifying Christian virtue**. The discipling maker must also be willing to do whatever is necessary to help a Christian disciple grow to maturity. This commitment will surely involve conscientious investment of time, money, energy, resources, talents, and abilities in the discipling process. Discipling will no doubt require many **sacrifices of time, talent and treasure (money)**. But this we do out of sincere love for God and neighbor. Christian discipling makers should always be **motivated by fond and loving affection** for their **disciples**, striving always for their highest good – which is the formation of Christ in them. The Apostle Paul is an excellent role model for us.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12 - 7 But we **proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.** 8 **Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.** 9 For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. 10 You are witnesses, and **so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers;** 11 just as you know how **we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,** 12

so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. NASB

See here how Paul was motivated by love and fond affection for those he disciplined. And this he did being a **godly example of Christian virtue** and also, **“exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you to walk in a manner worthy of God.”** See this godly example of how Paul follows Jesus which is a model for us in discipling.

2. The Commitment of the Disciple - To the Lordship of Christ and to the process of discipleship - The commitment of a Christian disciple is, most basically, a commitment to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who genuinely confess Jesus as Lord should fall into a pattern of submission to His leadership. That is why we consistently define a **disciple**, as a **follower of Christ**. Learning to follow Christ rightly is extremely difficult to do all by yourself, and going it alone is actively discouraged in Scripture. Just as Jesus commanded mature believers to make disciples, it is obvious he would encourage new believers to enter into discipling **relationships with mature believers**. They are to do this for the **purpose of learning to live as Christians** and become **effective, productive members** of the body of Christ. Following Christ, then, begins by **heeding His command to be disciplined**. Mature believers should be **consistently encouraging new believers to seek out godly disciplemakers** who will instruct, encourage, and hold them accountable to obeying all that the Lord commanded. Therefore, it will take a strong commitment to following the **instruction and exhortations** of the **discipler**. In our post-modern American environment, people are very autonomous and do not like submitting themselves to instructions, reproof and exhortations, especially to moral commands from the Bible! It is important therefore to get an **upfront commitment** from those whom you disciple that they will **conform themselves to the teaching of Christ and the Apostles** that you exhort them in. This is a **fundamental part of discipling** and it requires a **verbal commitment**, and even some **reminders** about it along the way if/when things get tough.

Have a Relationship with Your Disciple

Have a close personal relationship of trust with your disciple. Work on the social aspect of your relationship as well. Walk with them, help them, love them in practical ways. Be their friend and invest your life into them and live as their brother or sister in Christ. Do them deliberate spiritual good by always encouraging them to trust God and Christ, and to honor God in all they do. Be their teacher and counselor and don't be afraid to exhort them or even correct them when need be. Be sure and tell them and show them in tangible ways that you love them and want what is best for them and teach them what that means from the Bible.

Teach Your Disciple God's Word

1. **Make Sure Your Disciple is Saved** – To the best of your ability. Teach them all the fundamental parts of the Gospel and make sure they know it and can articulate it spontaneously.
2. **Teach them what God's Word is** – Explain what **inerrancy** and **infallibility** are to them. Maybe take a few weeks to read through **Grudem's Doctrine of Scripture** or a book like **"Taking God at His Word"** by Kevin DeYoung.
3. **Teach them what the Bible says** - Spend many months taking them through a **Gospel** (like Mark) and some epistles like **Romans** and **Ephesians, 1 & 2 Peter**. Show them how to be **careful** in interpreting passages and reading and **thinking** about scripture with **discernment**.
4. **Teach them how it applies to their life** – Explain to them how to do what the Word says and how important obedience to God is. **"teaching them to obey all that I commanded you."**
5. **Teach them how to live by the Word** – Explain to them how you are making decisions in your life based on what God has said and show them how important it is to have integrity, humility, and virtue. Take several months to read a book on Sanctification with them like Jerry Bridges **"The Practice of Godliness"** or Bill Farley's **"Gospel Powered Humility."**

6. Use resources that help them learn. **Brand new believers** can learn a lot if you walk them through the workbooks we have called **“Foundations”** and **“The Fundamentals of the Faith.”**
 - a. See “Book Recommendations for Disciplemakers”
7. Consider **what your disciple needs to learn** and teach them accordingly. Answer their questions. Be sure to ground them in the **Fundamentals of the Faith** and make sure they learn and become **disciplined** in the 3 Basic Disciplines of Christian Life.

Teach Your Disciple the Basic Disciplines of the Christian Life

1.The Word of God

- a. Teach them to **know the Word** by reading it everyday.
- b. Teach them the **importance of reading the whole Bible** all the way through several times.
- c. Teach them to **live by the Word**
- d. Teach them to **hunger** for the **Word** and **meditate** on the **Word**
- e. Teach them **how to study the Bible** and how to use Bible study resources

2.Prayer

- a. Teach them **how to pray from Scripture** and by **modeling** it.
- b. Teach them the **importance of prayer** from the **Bible** – David, Daniel, Solomon, Nehemiah, Paul and others

3.Fellowship and Service

- a. Teach them the about the body of Christ and how important it is to **be in church regularly** to **worship God** and give Him glory through singing, fellowship, and corporate prayer. Tell them how important it is to sit under the **Word preached** every week to have their **mind renewed in the Word**. Tell them how important it is to **love people in the church**. Teach them that people in the church are people with real problems and failings and to learn to be patient, forgiving, and accommodating to God’s precious saints.

- b. Teach them how to **love and serve the church** for who Christ died. Explain from the Bible that they have gifts that God has given them to use in loving and serving the church. Help them understand what their gifts are. Exhort them to make sure they keep **life priorities** like marriage, family, church, work, etc. are all in the **right balance**. Show them and explain to them how you carefully live to balance your life priorities.

Train Your Disciple to be a Disciplemaker

Don't forget that at some point your disciple will have **learned how to live the Christian life** from you. This would and should include how you have been committed to discipling them. Teach them that it will **soon be their time to help someone else follow Jesus**, and that this is the Lord's command. Explain that when you have finished with them, you will be looking for another to help follow Jesus, and this will continue until the Lord returns.

Why Do We Make Disciples?

1. To obey Jesus' Great Commission
2. To teach believers to worship Jesus and follow Him as their ultimate priority
3. To emphasize the necessity of loving, enjoying, and glorifying Christ in all aspects of life, worshipping Him and submitting our life to Him in obedience.
4. To encourage believers to keep Christ and the Gospel at the center of their lives and that discipling is the means that God has chosen to train new believers in Kingdom living.