

## Easter | Discipling

**I. Biblical Discipleship**

- Matthew 28:19-20
- First, no Christian has a legitimate excuse to not be discipling someone. It may be a student or peer or friend or family member or fellow church member, but you absolutely must be involved in a discipleship relationship, or you are disobeying the Great Commission.
- Second, notice what discipleship entails. First, the individual has to be a believer. Discipleship is not evangelism; evangelism is evangelism. Discipleship can only be done with someone who has already put their trust in Jesus Christ and chosen to follow Him.
- That's why the first thing on the list is to baptize them. Baptism has been called by many, "The first step of obedience for a Christian" because there's nothing keeping new believers from being baptized earlier rather than later, and . . . only a Christian can be truly baptized.
  - The first unfortunate reality is that people like to think they're discipling by evangelism, and they like to think they've disciplined even though it didn't involve teaching people what Jesus said and teaching them how to observe those commands. In both of those scenarios, they're not really discipling.
  - And the second implication of this truth is that discipling requires five things:
    - A discipler,
    - A disciplee,
    - God's Word,
    - Conversation, and . . .
    - Practice

**II. Practical Discipleship**

- **Are you really a discipler?**
  - This is a nonnegotiable command. And even if someone wanted to do some theological gymnastics and argue that the great commission only applied to the 11 disciples, then they're also going to have to ignore the vast majority of the New Testament that commands and illustrates what God's expectations are for discipleship in the church.
  - Ephesians 4:14-16 is a beautiful synopsis of how discipleship works. Instead of being capricious children deceived by unbiblical lies, Christians are to be equipped by their pastors to speak the Truth in love so that the entire church can be fitted together and built up in love so that we grow up into Christ. So, again, are you discipling someone?
- **Do you have a disciplee?**
  - If you don't then you're not a discipler. If you do, then you are. They require each other. You're not a discipler waiting for a disciplee, you're not doing your job.
  - And the really cool thing about discipleship relationships is that they don't require a master and pupil dynamic. I know Christ commands us to teach each other, but that can and should be a reciprocal relationship.
  - I can speak the Truth in love that you need to be built up in the area, and you can speak the Truth in love I need to be built up in another.
  - But did you know you can be a discipler with a disciplee and still not be discipling for Christ?

- **Is the Bible the foundation of your discipling?**
  - By our every fleshly word and deed we invite people to be our own disciples, but it takes intentionality to disciple someone to follow Christ. That intentionality will require the Scriptures. That's where we discover the Truth and love to be spoken into other's lives.
- **Do you and your fellow disciple talk about God?**
  - We can model what it looks like to live a Christ-honoring life, but if that's all we ever do, and we never speak about what we believe and how it affects our lives, we're not discipling for Christ.
  - When was the last time you preached, taught, encouraged, challenged, rebuked, edified, admonished, corrected, or trained another believer with the Word of God?
- **Are you teaching others how to actually obey God's commands?**
  - That's what it takes to be a discipler.
  - That means that we have our marching orders for Easter Sunday.
  - This Easter we need to plan to engage with at least one other believer with the purpose of talking about God and His Word in a way that helps you both better understand it and obey it.

### III. Practical Ideas for Practical Discipleship

- **Assuming you've been studying the Bible, share with another believer what God has been teaching you, reminding you, or challenging you.**
- **During this season of life you can talk about how God saved you.**
- **Ask the other person about what God has been teaching them from their Bible reading, the church services they've attended, or other Bible-related interactions they've had.**
- **Ask your fellow disciple about when they became a disciple of Christ.**
- **Easter is the perfect time to talk about the amazing sacrifice and resurrection of the Lord and how it impacts our now as well as our eternity.**
- Of course, discipleship isn't always encouraging. Sometimes it involves admonishment and rebuke. That's okay. God commands those as well, and — if you're a parent — you're probably going to have to do that on Sunday as well.
  - God will provide you so many opportunities to talk of Him this Easter. Take them. Take that conversation and sharpen a fellow believer.
  - Encourage someone.
  - Edify someone.
  - Challenge someone.
  - And welcome those Christians to do the same for you.