

Last message in the series, but the topic will continue to be talked about.

Last week we established what we were after, what is a disciple? Now this week we will ask the follow up question. What is making a disciple? We know what a disciple is. (Knows Jesus words, knows how to interpret them, models their life after His, and multiplies) Now what does making one look like?

I want to nail down three things this morning. I'll be honest, they don't super flow together, but I think they are important if we are going to take this seriously. So, it might feel a bit choppy, but I promise it will be worthwhile.

*Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:16-20)*

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20 again

As we ask the question of how we do this, I want to make sure we see this:

Discipleship and disciple making has always been a huge part of the mission of the church, in pretty much every single form. You would be hard pressed to find a church anywhere in the world that at least wouldn't verbally say we're about discipleship. Especially in this part of the world it's got its discipleship pastors and groups and pipelines and pathways and programs and movements and on and on it goes.

So we know it's important. But often times, we don't have the big picture in mind.

So here is the first thing I think we need to nail down.

When we talk about making disciples here at CrossPoint. Here is what we mean: Making disciples is both **introducing** people to Jesus and **walking with** them as they grow up in Jesus.

*And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. (Mark 16: 15)*

*Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. (Colossians 1:28)*

Not just "evangelism." Not just growing in knowledge, understanding.

When we think about making disciples in our lives, as a church. It's both. No one gets to say I'm only good at one part, so I won't even think about the other side of things.

Here is why this matters. If all you're ever looking out for is just one part, you will miss out on all kinds of opportunities. If you only experience something one way or from one perspective, it's all you're ever going to see. We see this all the time. (Vida and the buzzing)

We get hung up on the process.

If you were hoping for a five-step method to perfect disciple making – you're not hearing it here. I'm sorry. But I'm actually not sorry.

Because principles beat out processes every time.

I think this has been one of the reasons sometimes we struggle with this, because we treat it as all or nothing. But that doesn't give the diversity of the body, or its effectiveness.

It's like we made a method that really the eyes are best at, but hopefully those feet can get on board. No wonder we struggle.

Four spiritual laws

Friendship evangelism

One-on-one mentorship

Sunday School

Justice-oriented disciple making

Discipleship small groups (with a big emphasis on accountability)

DMM

None of these are bad but I think a mistake we make sometimes is that we act like there is only one way to do this. It's a problem that comes up when we try to systemize this whole thing.

So instead of a process, I want to share where we landed, what followers of Jesus have been doing for a long time.

### **Principles of Disciple making**

#### **1. Holy Spirit led**

*Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: (John 16: 7-8)*

A. My sheep know my voice - John 10:27

B. I've been a part of a lot of "discipleship" groups, initiatives, and movements. Most were led by personality, charisma, academia, brute strength even, and they weren't worthless.

But the ones that have formed me the most deeply, were relationships and situations where someone was really being led by the spirit.

2. Scripturally based
  - A. What we are not talking about here is just good old therapy, or just friendship.
  - B. If Scripture is true, we are to introduce people to Jesus (Who is described as the Word of God, made flesh, being the fulfillment of the law), and to teach them to obey everything He has said. Where do we get the most straightforward way to hear what He teaches? Here in Scripture.
  - C. Whatever the process, do we see examples of it in Scripture?
  - D. Our culture is different for sure than the culture we read about in Scripture, but is the heart the same? Are the values the same?
3. Willingness
  - A. Jesus was super interruptive. The early followers of Jesus were willing to throw it all away for Him. Are we?
  - B. *Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."* (Luke 14:25-27)
4. A loving heart posture
  - A. Not going to go over this a lot, you can go back a few weeks and rewatch those messages. But I will remind us again that without it, these efforts don't amount to much.
  - B. 1 Corinthians 13
5. Personal ownership
  - A. This is our job. We have to own it. Not clock in. Not have our arm twisted.  
*I am obligated both to Greeks and barbarians, both to the wise and the foolish.*  
(Romans 1:14)  
In 1 Corinthians 9:19, Paul says he's free, but will make himself a slave to anyone for the Gospel .
  - B. Have seen students who I've forced, and those who were there for it. There is a big old difference .
  - C. How can we expect to see real change if we are only willing to make disciples when it falls into our allotted time slot.
6. Multiplication
  - A. Can this be done again?
  - B. Are they forever dependent on you?
  - C. Example: Medical dependence (heart attack, blood thinners)

Ok, last thing I want to spend a little time on as we wrap up, is something actually practical. I get frustrated at the lack of practicality sometimes in these conversations.

A helpful grid to find out where you could be making disciples:

1. People – who's around you?

- A. Doug Ridenour Sr.
- B. Jaxson
- 2. Places – where are you?
  - A. FCA Clubs last year and this year
  - B. Middle school outreach
- 3. Passions – what stirs your heart ?
  - A. Alvin - broken heart for these kids
  - B. Brad Hawn