

**Ministers United for Ministerial Development**  
**2022 Annual Conference**  
**Discipleship – Part 2**

Facilitator: Dr. Michael Oyedokun II

**The ROI (Return on Investment) of Discipleship**

**LIVING AS A DISCIPLE MAKER**

**WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?**

- The word ***disciple*** refers to a student or apprentice. One who follows the teacher or master to be trained and to learn.

It is impossible to be a disciple or a follower of someone and not end up like that person. *“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher” (Luke 6:40).*

- we **IMITATE HIM**
- we **CARRY ON HIS MINISTRY**
- we **BECOME LIKE HIM IN THE PROCESS**

**HOW DO I BECOME A DISCIPLE?**

**REPENT**

Matthew 4:17 – “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

- The word ***repent*** means “to turn”. It has the idea of changing directions and heading the opposite way.
- Part of our repentance is the realization that we must turn from believing that there is anything we can do to save ourselves – for everything was accomplished by Jesus Christ.

**The Lord of Grace**

Scripture is all about the grace of God. There is absolutely nothing that you can do to save yourself or earn God’s favor. Paul said, “By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

**It All Comes Down to Love**

Following Jesus comes down to two commands, which He said were the most important commandments in the Old Testament Law:

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (Mat 22:37-40 KJV)

**Love God** – Matthew 22:36-40; Mark 12:28-31  
**Love Each Other** – John 13:34-35  
**Love and Reach Out to Others** – Matthew 28:18-20

**Matthew 22:36-40** - Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

**John 13:34-35** - A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

**Agape Love – means unconditional love...**In Ancient Greek, it often refers to a general affection or deeper sense of "true love" rather than the attraction suggested by "eros". *Agape* is used in the biblical passage known as the "love chapter", 1 Corinthians 13, and is described there and throughout the New Testament as sacrificial love.

Love is both **VERTICAL** and **HORIZONTAL**.

- If you love vertical, then it must be expressed horizontally
- If you love horizontal (which can be seen by everyone), is proof that you love vertically.

Jesus was a living example of God's love, as we are to be living examples of Jesus' love.

Christ wants to make sure there is an understanding that this is a new commandment (a new object).

**Why the distinction?**

- Where we see this in the Old Testament is in Leviticus 19:18 which states, Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.
- In Leviticus the command was to love your neighbor which can be interpreted somebody of "your people"
- But Christ wants us to know that the new commandment is that we must love everyone...

**If we love one another...this will be a witness to an unbelieving world.**

- If those who are outside of the Kingdom see us not loving who are inside the Kingdom...then what is the attraction to join in the Kingdom.
  - o Not only are we to love each other...but Christ sets the example that we are to love the outsiders as well.

**Christ imparts a new measure.... "love one another, as I have loved you"**

This is where we breakdown on the loving another aspect. We were ok with the loving one another...because we could determine, measure and give conditions on how much

to love. But now when Christ adds the measure, “as I have loved you” - that messed us up. Now we are held to a standard and held accountable to a measure that takes us out of our comfort zone.

### **What does the measure of “as I have loved you” mean?**

We see the measure in **1 Corinthians 13:4-8a**: *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*

### **WHAT LOVE IS...**

Paul records the description of LOVE here in 1 Corinthians 13; Love is longsuffering and Love is kind. Paul uses action words to distinguish Love as a feeling but that Love can be seen in action; doing and caring.

- It is easy to say I love you or write I love you but when you love someone, we are taking **Love in Action**.
  - o **Love suffers long...**
  - o **Love is kind**
  - o **Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**

### **WHAT LOVE IS NOT...**

- Ten things love is *not*: not envious, not proud, not judgmental, not hypocritical, not arrogant, not rude, not cliquish, not touchy, not suspicious, not happy with evil.
- These are a list of known things...I am sure we can think of a few more to add to the list.

The book of 1 John expounds on this new commandment of “Love one another”. James Boice tells us in his commentary that throughout this book John gives 3 reasons why we should love one another.

1. **It is God’s Nature:** in 1 John 4:7-8 it tells us, *“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.”*
  - a. Love is a characteristic of God. God is love that is His being...because we are children of Him...we should obtain that same characteristic.
  - b. Children who are born of their parents have some characteristic alike with them.
2. **Love led to God’s gift:** that gift is the giving of His son to die on the cross for our sins. I can remember growing up in the church singing this song that we

don't really sing anymore, "Love lifted me, when nothing else could help...Love lifted Me". It said, "I was sinking deep in sin far from the peaceful shore very deeply stained within sinking to rise no more, but the Master of the sea heard my despairing cry from the waters He lifted me now safe am I"

- a. John 3:16 lets us know that *"for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should have everlasting life."*
  - b. We should love others because of the "whosoever" in John 3:16
3. **It is God's present and continuing activity:** we can love others because God has, still and will forever love us. God didn't just love us once and stop loving. He is still loving us and that is evident based on the blessings you have in your life.

### **What Do They See?**

Discipleship – When men see your love it will cause others to know Christ. Letting your light shine.

### **Count the Cost**

Before you can set out to teach other people to be disciples of Jesus, you need to examine your heart and make sure you are a disciple.

Luke 14:25-33 KJV - 25 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, 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. 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have [sufficient] to finish [it]? 29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish [it], all that behold [it] begin to mock him, 30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. 33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

## **THE COMMAND TO MAKE DISCIPLES**

Instead of Jesus telling His disciples that He would immediately transform the earth, Jesus gave His disciples one final command and ascended into heaven. He told them to finish what He had started. They were to take the message that Jesus declared and exemplified in and around Jerusalem and spread that message to the very ends of the earth.

*18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20 KJV)*

## **The Great Commission and the Church**

When you read through the New Testament, it is not surprising to read that Jesus's followers were focused on making disciples – it makes sense in light of Jesus's ministry and the Great Commission. The surprise comes when we look at our churches today in light of Jesus's command to make disciples.

- We see little disciple making taking place in the church today. If Jesus made the command to that church...he wants the same from the church of today.

## **More Than a Program**

For some of us, our church experience had been focused on programs that we immediately think about Jesus's command to make disciples in programmatic terms.

- Making disciples is far more than a program. It is the mission of our lives. It defines us. **A disciple is a disciple maker.**
- The Great Commission uses three phases to describe what disciple making entails: go, baptize people, and teach them to obey everything Jesus commanded.

## **Equipped to Do the Work of Ministry**

While it is true that the pastors, elders, and apostles in the New Testament made disciples, we can't overlook the fact that discipleship was everyone's job. The members of the early church took their responsibility to make disciples very seriously. To them, the church wasn't a corporation run by a CEO. Rather, they compared the church to a body that functions properly only when every member is doing its part.

*11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, [and] cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:11-16 KJV)*

## **Taking the First Step**

Being a disciple maker means that you will begin to look at the people in your life differently. Following Jesus means that you will be teaching other people to follow Jesus.

- **Who has God placed in your life that you can teach to follow Jesus?**  
Keep in mind that the Great Commission calls us to every type of person, to inside the church as well as those outside the church, those who are like us and those that are different.

## **Working Together to Make Disciples**

God wants you to view the other Christians in your life as partners in ministry. God does not want you to make disciples in isolation. He has placed us in the context of a church body so that you can be encouraged and challenged by the people around you.

## **THE HEART OF A DISCIPLE MAKER**

Why do you want to make disciples? As followers of Christ, we should be focused on making disciples. But if our motive is not right we are doing more harm than good.

- An important theme that runs throughout scripture is this: "The LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).
- God wants us to pursue certain actions, but as we put God's commands into action, our motivation makes all the difference.

## **Teaching is Dangerous**

Ask yourself again: Why do you want to make disciples?

For those that are reluctant, remember that God wants you to minister out of joy, not mere obligation. God wants us to enjoy the privilege and pleasure of ministering to others. He wants us to be cheerful when we give (2 Corinthians 9:7), and He wants us to lead others willingly and eagerly:

2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; (1Peter 5:2 NIV)

The Bible takes the role of a teacher very seriously, and so should we.

## **Love Comes First**

Paul added a challenge from a different angle. In the most beautiful terms, he said that gaining knowledge and power – even sacrificing our own bodies – is completely worthless apart from love.

1 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3 NIV)