

What Does It Cost to Make Disciples?

Colossians 1:28-29 “*He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.*”

Being a disciple who makes disciples happens in two ways: 1) We’re called to evangelize, which is sharing the gospel with unbelievers. 2) We’re called to **help other believers grow in Christ-likeness**. Matthew 28:19-20 says, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...” This Great Commission is not a request, it’s a *command* for those who are already following Christ to go and teach others *how* to follow Him.

Whose Job Is It Anyway?

God doesn’t just want a Church of converts, He wants a Church of committed *followers*--true disciples of Jesus Christ. So, how do we get more disciples in the Church? By teaching and training those who have been converted! Who is responsible for this training? Anyone who identifies as a follower of Christ!

“You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:1-2

If you are a disciple of Jesus Christ, living a life of “minding your own spiritual business” and keeping to your saved, sanctified self is not on the table. Whether you’re a ministry leader OR a general church member, you have a responsibility to play an *active* role in the maturation of new and developing Christians. Fulfilling this responsibility requires love, intention, and *sacrifices*.

Spiritual Legacy

Now, you may be thinking to yourself, “I already have to sacrifice to BE a disciple. I have to sacrifice to MAKE them, too?” Why, yes, yes you do. If Jesus is our model for living, loving, and serving, we must follow His lead, and He sacrificed His time, comfort, and convenience not only to perform miracles, signs, and wonders, but to teach and train disciples who would perpetuate the gospel message to ensure its preservation throughout time. Then, once Christ made His ascension to heaven, the disciples were His spiritual legacy. When you leave this earth, who will be yours?

Think of a family tree, and all of the branches that extend from one couple to their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and so on. Now, consider what it looks like when one follower of Christ begets another follower, and that follower begets five followers, and those followers beget five followers each. What started as an investment in one person bears the fruit of 31 babes

in Christ being equipped for the work of ministry and built up in spiritual maturity. This is why discipleship is essential to Christianity; not only does it allow us to be trained and equipped ourselves, it enables us to pass on that training and pay it forward so that the body of Christ will continue to be built up and sustained through generations.

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Characteristics of Disciplers	Corresponding Sacrifice
<p>Disciplers Intentionally Build Relationships</p> <p>“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:24-25</p> <p>“Welcome people into your home and don't grumble about it.” 1 Peter 4:9</p>	<p>Time, Convenience, and Comfort</p>
<p>Disciplers Live a Consecrated Lifestyle</p> <p>“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.” 1 Corinthians 10:23</p> <p>“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come!” Matthew 18:6-7</p>	<p>Carnality/Worldly indulgences</p>
<p>Disciplers Exercise Humility</p> <p>“When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. ‘Do you understand what</p>	<p>Pride/Selfish Ambition</p>

<p>I have done for you?’ he asked them. ‘You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.’” John 13:12-16</p> <p>“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility, count others more significant than yourselves.” Philippians 2:3</p>	
<p>Disciplers Defend Truth</p> <p>“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.” Ephesians 4:11-14 NIV</p>	<p>Popularity/acceptance</p>

Reflection Questions

1. Whose discipleship journey are you actively pouring into right now?
2. Parents, have you been actively or passively discipling your children?
3. Do people know that you’re someone they can come to for spiritual guidance or mentorship? Have you positioned yourself as someone who is open to taking a younger believer under your wing? Are you approachable?