

1) Salvation

Salvation is just the beginning of the journey. Many times Christians think when they accept Jesus that they have completed the race, but actually, they have just begun.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16, NIV

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6, NIV

2) Lordship

Who is in charge of your life? Following Jesus means submitting to His ways, His teachings, and His example about how to live life.

Total Commitment = The alignment of one's motives, priorities, and goals to fulfill a specific mission, accomplish a specific task, or follow a specific person.

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." John 6:68, NIV

3) Discipleship

Do you ever stop and ask, "Is this all there is in life?" There is more! Jesus is asking us to enter into an eternal journey where we endeavor to know Him more, be restored into His image, and spread His message to a broken world.

*Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; **but some doubted.** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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. **And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**" Matthew 28:16-20, NIV*

In the above verse, Matthew writes "but some doubted." The disciples had just witnessed the resurrection, the risen Christ was standing in front of them; yet they still doubted. Discipleship does not require a feeling of total

confidence. Christ's response is "surely I am with you always." God's love is unconditional, but His promises are based on our willingness to follow His teachings.

What is discipleship?

- Discipleship is teaching to obey, or in Greek "mathētēs," to guard and pay special attention to.
- A disciple is a learner or a pupil. The root word of disciple in Greek is "math", meaning one to who directs his mind to something.
- In discipleship, the goal is long term relationships in which Christians are being equipped.
- "Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning." Dallas Willard

Why should we disciple?

- Because Christ told us to!
- Discipleship is the best way to fulfill the great commission.

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. Matthew 28:19, NIV

- Discipleship leads to maturity

"I was more convinced than ever before that the preaching like an apostle, without the joining together those that are awakened and training them up in the ways of God, is only begetting children for the murderer. How much preaching has there been for these twenty years all over Pembrokehire! But no regular societies, no discipline, no order, no connection. And the consequence is that nine in ten of those once awakened are now faster asleep than ever." The Journal of John Wesley, Thursday, August 25, 1763

What does a disciple do?

- A disciple engages in loving relationships where the purpose is to grow closer to Jesus.
- A true disciple of Jesus Christ is one who loves Him, learns from Him, and is loyal to Him alone. Discipleship is always pointing to Jesus.
- Disciples are journeying toward maturity in relationship with God. Their desire is to be Christ-like and be His image-bearers to the world.

"The disciple is dragged out of his relative security into a life of absolute insecurity."

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York: Macmillan, 1959. Print.

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.” Teresa of Ávila

There are 5 Keys of Discipleship:

1. Having a personal relationship with Jesus
2. Being held accountable within a small group
3. Serving others through acts of love and compassion to build God’s kingdom
4. Demonstrating a life of stewardship
5. Sharing the gospel and reproducing disciples

See “5 Keys of Discipleship” document, Mount Pisgah UMC, for further details.

“Christianity without discipleship is like winning the lottery
but never cashing in the ticket.”

6 Reasons We Don’t Disciple:

1. We don’t know how. We’ve never seen it.
2. We are not able, not spiritually mature enough.
3. It’s hard, difficult, messy.
4. It’s slow, not flashy.
5. It’s misunderstood. Why invest so much in so few?
6. It’s choosing disobedience over obedience.

4) Purpose/ Disciple Maker

Our primary purpose:

- 1) The great commandment - Love the Lord with all your heart
- 2) The great commandment - Love your neighbor as yourself.
- 3) The great commission - To go and make disciples of all nations

Each of us has been given passion, gifts, and talents by God. Purpose can only be understood through having Christ as the Savior of your life, submitting to Him as Lord, and becoming His disciple. Then allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us as we go and make disciples for His kingdom.

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