

March 19, 2008

Command of Christ → Make Disciples
Character Quality → Flexibility
Scripture Reference → Matthew 28:20

Believers were called disciples before they were called “Christians.” (Acts 11:26)

- Today we have people who call themselves Christian who have never been discipled into the ways and Word of God.
- We need to understand the Kingdom before we can be discipled into it.

Discipleship is a process of “growing up” into the grace (God’s ability) that is in Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18)

- Truth (The Word) is the necessary instrument that facilitates our development into this grace. (Ephesians 4:15; 1 Peter 2:2)

Our victory and effectiveness will be proportionate to the grace that we have grown into.

The Gospel is the “good news” that the Kingdom is presently available.

- Kingdom → the “domain” (rule) of the King (Jesus)
- Discipleship is the process of seeing, entering into, and living from that Kingdom.
- Kingdom living is actually the King living through us. (Galatians 2:20; 5:24; 6:14)

Our unity with each other (as the Body of Christ) is a maturity issue.

- As we mature (acquire and maintain individual peace with God) we will walk in increasingly higher levels of unity with each other.

Four key aspects of a disciplined Christian lifestyle:

1. Communion with God [prayer and worship]
 - To hear from God’s presence.
2. Study and application of the Word of God.
 - For character formation.
3. Fellowship with the Body of Christ → community / purposeful relationships
 - “Iron sharpening iron.”
4. Giving (out of the abundance of the internal, eternal limitless Kingdom).
 - Moving from self-centeredness to God-centeredness.
 - God expressed (and continues to express) His love by giving.