# God's Will for You: to Make a Disciple

## *(Created to Reproduce)*

**Discipleship Series**
**11/7/04**

**Introduction: God's Goal in Saving us: Christlikeness and then Reproduction of Christlikeness in Others**

**How do you know whether you are a Disciple?**

**Are you a true citizen of Heaven? (Matthew 7:21)**
**Is your life characterized by Obedience, Submission, Love (Jn. 13:35), Prayer & Bible Study**

# I. <u>WHY</u> SHOULD I DISCIPLE SOMEONE ELSE?

**1. BECAUSE GOD COMMANDS DISCIPLESHIP**

A. DISCIPLESHIP IS THE GREAT COMMISSION (Mt. 28:18-20) ("Teach" = lit. "make disciples")

B. DISCIPLESHIP WAS THE PRACTICE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

1. Discipleship is expounding "the way of God more perfectly" (Acts 18:23-28)

2. Discipleship is declaring "the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:18-20, 26-27)

For full discipleship to take place, you need:

a. <u>public</u> teaching of the Word in a church (see Acts 11:26)

b. <u>private</u> teaching of the Word in a home (see Acts 18:23-28)

Personal discipleship does not contradict the ministry of a church--it complements it. You need both! Don't substitute one for another. A pulpit ministry does not substitute for personal evangelism and discipleship, and vice-versa.

3. Discipleship is giving to others what has been committed to you (II Tim. 2:2)

a. Christ discipled the apostles (who were called His disciples (see the Gospels)
b. The apostles discipled Barnabas (implied in Acts 4:36)
c. Barnabas discipled Paul (Acts 9:27)
d. Paul discipled Timothy (I Tim. 1:2)
e. Timothy discipled Ephesian saints (I Tim. 1:3)
f. Paul discipled Aquilla & Priscilla (implied in Acts 18:2, 18)
g. Aquilla & Priscilla discipled Apollos (Acts 18:23-28)
h. Apollos discipled the Corinthian saints (Acts 19:1, I Cor. 1:12)

4. Discipleship is the goal of the ministry (Eph. 4:11-13)

**2. BECAUSE NEW BELIEVERS NEED DISCIPLING**

A. NEW BELIEVERS (like newborn infants) NEED LOVE, PROTECTION, FOOD AND TRAINING

1. They are more <u>vulnerable</u> than mature Christians

a. More easily deceived by Satan (I Th. 3:5)

b. More easily led astray by false religions, false movements, and false teachings (Acts 20:29-31)

2. They have a great <u>potential for growth</u> (change)

a. Fastest growth rate is in early childhood (just as the early stages of growth are vital to an infant, the early stages are vital to a new convert)

b. Patterns are established early that will continue

B. NEW BELIEVERS NEED TO KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE IN CHRIST
(II Cor. 5:17)

1. Teach him that he has a <u>new faith</u> (change in beliefs) (Acts 2:42 - "continued in apostles' doctrine)

2. Teach him that he has a <u>new food</u> (change in diet) (I Pet. 2:2; Mt. 4:4)

3. Teach him that he has a new family (change in relationships) (Prov. 24:1; I Cor. 15:33; II Cor. 6:14-16)

4. Teach him that he has a new fight (change in conflicts) (Put on new man - Eph. 4:24; I Thes. 3:1-5; II Tim. 3:12; James 1)

5. Teach him that he has a new future (Eph. 2:1-10)

a. Change in direction (new goals) (Eph. 2:1-5)

b. Change in destiny (new hope) (Eph. 2:6-7)

1) We anticipate no judgment for sin

--We face no condemnation (Ro. 8:1)

--We have passed from death to life (Jn. 5:24-25)

2) We anticipate a new body (I Cor. 15:51-58)

3) We anticipate a new home (II Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1-8)

We must live like citizens of Heaven - Phil. 1:27; 3:20; Eph. 2:19

c. Change in duty (new responsibilities) (Eph. 2:8-10)

Serve (work for) Christ and His children with love as your motive (Jn. 13:34; I Jn. 2:7-8).
We are not saved to sit, soak, and sour, but to serve!

**C. NEW BELIEVERS NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT CHRIST IS NOW THE LORD OF THEIR LIVES.**
(Teach them the Lordship of Christ)

1. Who is Jesus?

a) He is Master & Lord (Jn.13:13)

b) He is over all things (Col.1:16-18)

c) Every knee shall bow before Him (Phil.2:9-11)

(He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords - Rev.19:16)

2. How must we respond?

a) Follow Him (without question) (Lk.5:27-28)

(cp. Lk.9:23: To do so you must: deny self die to self)

b) Obey Him (Lk.6:46)

c) Serve Him (Jn.12:26)

d) Live for Him (II Cor.5:15)

(see Rom. 12:1,2)

Christ is Lord over our: personal lives, family relationships, use of money & time, friendships, possessions, careers, etc.

If God commands discipleship, we must obey.

If new believers need it, we must love them enough to commit ourselves to this great task.

## II. HOW SHOULD I DISCIPLE SOMEONE ELSE?