God's Will for You: to Make a Disciple

(Created to Reproduce)

Discipleship Series

Introduction: God's Goal in Saving us: Christ-likeness and then Reproduction of Christ-likeness 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), A desire for Prayer & Bible Study**

I. <u>WHY</u> SHOULD I DISCIPLE A NEW BELIEVER?

A. BECAUSE GOD COMMANDS DISCIPLESHIP

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

2. DISCIPLESHIP WAS THE PRACTICE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

B. BECAUSE NEW BELIEVERS NEED DISCIPLING

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

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

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

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

3. NEW BELIEVERS NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT CHRIST IS NOW THE <u>LORD</u> OF THEIR LIVES.
(Teach them the <u>Lordship of Christ</u>)

II. <u>HOW</u> SHOULD I DISCIPLE A NEW BELIEVER?

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Are you a true citizen of Heaven? (Matthew 7:21)
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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?