

Dgroup Discussion Guide for April 8, 2018

Why Make Disciples

Scripture: Matthew 28: 18-20

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Jesus' great commission is also His greatest command. To allay our doubts He Himself tells us that ALL AUTHORITY has been given to Him. This tells us that His commands are meant to be followed. They are not suggestions, they are in fact to be obeyed. This is our one mission – to MAKE DISCIPLES.

Since this is our one mission, then we should be INTENTIONAL in doing it. Disciples are made, they are not born. And in order to make disciples. Our purpose is to be discipled and to disciple. Not knowing this purpose can be dangerous and damaging. If Christians do not know God's purpose for saving, this is dangerous and damaging because we will end up looking for purpose in so many other places. . . where all the answers are wrong and can be destructive. This is why there are many dysfunctional Christians. . . because they do not know their purpose, or God's purpose for them.

Herein the tragedy lies – many Christians today are not maturing because they are pursuing other purposes and not God's purpose for them. This becomes true because many Christians only want the salvation, but they do not want the transformation that the Word of God will bring to their lives.

So the question is – What then is God's purpose for those He chose and saved? Romans 8: 29 tells us ***For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son.*** What does this mean? It is God's purpose, His plan is to transform us into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ. We are to become humble and selfless. This is Christ-like maturity. This is God's purpose in order for us to become light and salt to the world. It is when we allow God's transforming power in our life that He becomes pleased with us. Jesus gave us a model to follow. He even allowed Himself to be baptized in order to fulfill Scripture and God the Father says ***This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*** It is when we obey, when we are humble and selfless . . . when we are Christ-like that God is most pleased with us.

The apostle Paul said in Colossians 1:28 ***We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.*** It was his goal to see Christlikeness to be manifested in every believer. He further says in Galatians 4:19 ***My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you.***

So how do we know if we are maturing in Christ-likeness? This is our basis. Philippians 2: 3-8 ***Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.***

Jesus modeled selfless humility to the point of death. He died so we no longer need to die. He lives so that we can live in Him. Selfless humility is the antidote to pride and selfishness. As we grow to be more and more selfless and humble, we will sin less and less. When we are born again in the Spirit, transformation will happen in our lives whether we want it or not. So when there is no transformation in our life, then maybe we have not yet been born again.

There are two ways that God uses in order for the saved to become Christ-like?

1. Re - active – God predestines the saved to be selfless and humble like Christ, and He does that through our obedience to all His commands. But often, we are disobedient so God will react by allowing problems in our lives to humble us.
2. Pro-active – God ordained that Christ-like maturity will happen once we make disciples in obedience to the Great Commission. Because before we can teach, we have to do. Before we can teach others to obey, we have to obey first. We have to teach by modeling.

Making disciples is a 2 step intentional process to be Christlike.

1. First, we have to baptize them. They have to first come to faith in Jesus Christ.
2. Teach them to obey everything.
 - a. Teach them through bible study
 - b. Teach them to obey through accountability
 - c. Teach them to obey all through discipleship

Jesus obeyed all of God's commands. Thus if we are to be like Him, we too need to obey all and then teach others to obey all as well. It is in this obedience that God is pleased. And when God is pleased, he rewards it with His abiding enabling presence to overcome every challenge and trial we are going to face. We obey because we have faith. Hebrews 11: 6 says ***And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.***

What then is faith?

1. Where does faith come from?
Romans 10:17 ***So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.***
2. What do we do with God's word?
James 1:22 ***But prove yourselves doers of the word, and nor merely hearers who delude themselves.***

It is not truth that changes lives, it is applied truth that changes lives. Faith is knowing God's word and being a doer of it, in spite of the adverse circumstances. It is when we make disciples, when we do it intentionally then we can become effective witness of Jesus Christ to the world.

What is Discipleship? Discipleship is a life long process of helping a believer grow in faith towards Christlike maturity that will result in spiritual multiplication for the glory of God. (CCF Definition based on Romans 8:29; Colossians 1;28 and Galatians 4:19)

How then we do disciple? We have to be intentional. Every member should be a disciple. Every family discipleship group. We have to have a common goal that is to be more and more Christ-like. We should encourage and motivate each other to OBEY ALL of God's commands.

Exactly how does one teach another to OBEY ALL?

1. We ask: Are there commands of God that you are not obeying? Ask about **Pride Areas** **Selfish Areas**. Confirm and validate with spouse and family.
2. Encourage the person that the best way to OBEY ALL is for him/her to model to others especially to family obedience to all.

Christlike-ness should be measured. That is why discipleship should be regular and intentional. It is in this presets that we can begin to measure maturity in the believer.

But why are there so many who are not making disciples? Because we do not think it is imperative to our survival. But making disciples promises something that our Christian life depends on – **AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS TO THE END OF THE AGE**. Jesus promises us His abiding presence IF we obey His command to GO and MAKE DISCIPLES. To BAPTIZE them and TEACH THEM TO OBEY ALL. We can only experience the reality of HIS presence in our life unless we begin and we intentionally make disciples. So that we can become more and more like Him. So that every day we will become more and more obedient to OBEY ALL of God's commands. And every day as we learn to obey all, we will continue to please the Father and He will reward us greatly and richly.

When we are walking with the Lord, we will never be alone. So that we will find confidence in Romans 8:28 **And we know that all things work together for the good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose**. Everything will just fall into place. Trials, victories, challenges and triumphs. We walk live our life here in this world, secured in the knowledge that Jesus is intentional and invested in us because He will remain with us and in us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Are you investing in discipling your family?
2. Are you using the tools that CCF is providing you to make discipleship regular and measurable?
3. What spiritual growth have you observed since you began discipleship with your spouse and children?

WORKS: **EMAD, EFAD**

1. Dads formalize your EFAD with your wife first and then together with your children.
 - a. Have a personal discipleship agenda for your family. Your personal commitment to God.
I will intentionally disciple my family to see the presence of Jesus always in our home, transforming and re-building my family to be Christ-like witnesses to each other, to other families in our community, in our city and nation.
2. Agree on a day and time weekly to come together to have a family devotional using the Sunday message or any bible passage and then apply the metrics
3. Do the metrics for each of your family members.
4. Do this faithfully and regularly
5. Be accountable to your Dgroup leader that this is happening intentionally.

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.