

Practical Discipleship

A practical method for
understanding and applying
principles of Christian
discipleship



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(Credit: With the exception of the section from Thessalonians, much of this material came from a church planting class and from readings associated with it, mainly Transforming Discipleship by Greg Odgen and Cultivating a Life for God by Neil Cole)

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Purpose: To gain a better understanding of Christian discipleship and recognize the shortcomings challenges related to discipleship, and then be able to outline a biblical framework for discipleship in order to identify practical steps toward discipleship that is biblically grounded and theologically astute.

Overview:

1. Introduction to Discipleship
2. What is Discipleship?
3. Root causes of the shortcomings in discipleship
4. Principles of the practice of discipleship
5. Practical ways discipleship takes place

Introduction to Discipleship

- I. Why a series on discipleship?
 - A. Many do not understand what discipleship is

Question - How many of you are truly disciples, raise your hand

 - a. Why didn't you raise your hand?
 - b. One of two reasons
 - You are not sure what it means to be a disciple, or
 - You think only super-committed people are disciples
 - B. What is the goal of the Gospel?
 1. Not just to be saved from Hell
 2. (Tit 3:5) - Two things happen
 - a. Washing of rebirth - This is the salvation "event"
 - Most of us have this down, we know what it is and how it happens
 - b. Renewal by the Holy Spirit - This is the "process" of change in our lives
 - More of us are unclear as to how this happens
 - C. Renewal is an absolute necessity in the Christian life
 1. (Eph 4:22-24) - We are to put off old self and put on new
 2. (Rom 12:2) - Not to be conformed to world, but transformed
 3. (2 Cor 3:18) - As we behold Christ, we are transformed
 4. (Rom 8:29) - God predestined us to be conformed to his image
 5. (Tit 3:5-6) - We are renewed by the Spirit
 6. Who does the transforming? The Spirit or us? Yes
 - D. We need to know what this transformation looks like, the Spirit's place, and our place in it
- II. Discipleship and transformation go hand in hand
 - A. As we behold Christ, we are transformed into his image
 - B. Transformation happens as you follow Christ

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