

# 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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## Practical Discipleship

**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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