

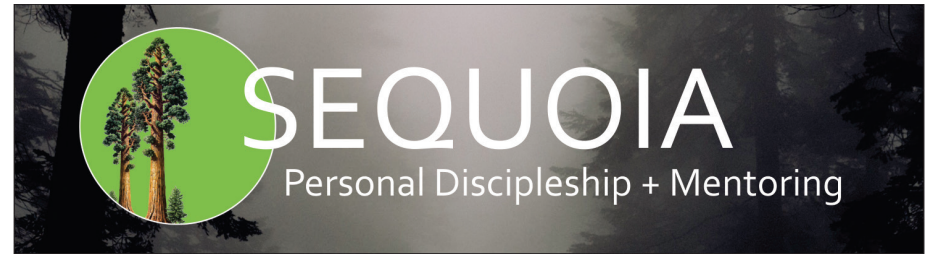
| Our Personal Responsibility | Paul's Instruction (Eph. 4:22-24) | James' Instruction (James 1:21-25) | The Result |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Mortification of the flesh | ...put off the old man... | ...lay apart all filthiness... | The flesh is restrained through the Spirit's enablement. |
| Meditation on the Word | ...be renewed in the spirit of your mind. | ...receive with meekness the engrafted word... | The mind is renewed through the Spirit's illumination. |
| Manifestation of Christlikeness | ...put on the new man... | ...be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only... | Christ is revealed through the Spirit's fruit. |

Do not be discouraged....

Change involves *putting off* and *putting on*. When you start discipling, you will discover this, if the new Christian became a Christian in adulthood, they had a lot of years to mess up their life. New converts generally have an assortment of problems, bad habits, and fleshly appetites that they must put off. And when you disciple them, you will find yourself dealing with their problems. Their entanglement in sin limits their spiritual growth. Do not be discouraged through the process of helping them put off and put on. You are not fixing their problems; you cannot fix their problems; you are pointing them to Christ in His Word, and He CAN and will fix their problems.

What about you?

Prior to His ascension, Jesus commissioned His church to make disciples all over the world. This wasn't a suggestion; it was a mandate. Folks, discipleship isn't the whole of the Christian life, but it is clearly a part of the Christian life—a critical part. Will you invest in others? Will you be a link in the chain that helps bring another _____ to God?



Community Baptist Church ■ Sunday Morning April 18, 2021 Pastor Sam Aylestock, saylestock@vfbt.org Discipleship is Every Christian's Responsibility ■ 2 Timothy 2:2

Why are you here? Not here in Community Baptist Church, but why are you here on planet earth? What is your purpose for being here? There are 7.87 billion people on earth in 2021, and you are one of them. Are you here by accident or here by intent?

When Jesus Christ voluntarily gave His life on the cross 2,000 years ago, He did not die for a cause. He died for people. In the purpose statements of Christ's ministry, the focus was clearly on people.

"...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." **John 10:10**
"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." **Matthew 20:28**

Jesus gave His disciples what is commonly called *The Great Commission* and charged them to take the Gospel to the world by making disciples. He had a world vision.

This same vision was on the heart of the Apostle Paul when he penned his *Last Will and Testament* in 2 Timothy 2:2, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

God has called every believer to a ministry of discipleship with those around them! Disciple-makers invest in people! They love people enough to teach them from God's Word. Disciple-makers are usually unknown to the masses, but they are known to God.

I. DISCIPLESHIP IS _____.

Discipleship is not an option; it is a directive! Jesus commanded that we make disciples of every nation (Matthew 28:20; 2 Timothy

2:2; Romans 15:14; Hebrews 3:13). You have probably sensed some responsibility to invest yourself in others. A discipleship ministry is going to help you do that. So, exactly what is discipleship?

II. THE MEANING OF DISCIPLESHIP

It is fundamentally a _____ between two people with a specific spiritual goal in mind. Discipleship is helping another believer make biblical change toward Christlikeness; this is helping others in the sanctification process.

A Definition of Discipleship

Discipleship is _____ your life in a relationship with another for the purpose of reproducing a spiritually mature follower of Jesus Christ.

“And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. (14) And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach.” Mark 3:13-14

Was Jesus effective in His training of His disciples? He spent time with His disciples. Where He went, they went. What He said, they heard. What He did, they saw. Did this impact the disciples?

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had _____ with _____.” Acts 4:13

The disciples were acting just like Jesus! They learned to live the Christian life by spending time with Jesus. Discipleship is primarily relational, and the disciple will be like his teacher.

III. THE GOAL OF DISCIPLESHIP

The goal of discipleship is change. God purposes to make us like His Son, Jesus Christ. As we mature in Christ, we should become less like the unregenerate people around us and more like the Lord within us. The change occurs in stages as indicated by 2 Corinthians 3:18, “[We] are changed into the same image from glory to glory.”

IV. THE PROCESS OF BIBLICAL CHANGE IN DISCIPLESHIP

- A. The terms regeneration, justification, adoption, reconciliation, and sanctification all relate to salvation and describe the change that takes place in a new believer.
1. Regeneration has to do with our _____. The sinner stands before God as a child of disobedience but is changed to walk as children of light. We received a new nature at salvation.
 2. Justification has to do with our standing before God. The sinner stands guilty and condemned before the God of the universe but is declared righteous.
 3. Adoption has to do with our _____. The sinner stands before God as a stranger but is made a son or daughter. We became a child of God; we’re a part of His family.
 4. Reconciliation also has to do with our relationship. The sinner stands before God as an enemy but becomes His friend.
 5. Sanctification has to do with our character and conduct. The sinner stands before God unholy and unclean but is made spotless. Sanctification is the transformation of a new relationship with God.
- B. *What is the change that takes place in believers?*
1. Separation from _____ (2 Chronicles 29:5, 15-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 9:3; Exodus 19:20-22; Leviticus 11:44)
 2. Dedication unto God to be used by Him (Leviticus 27:14, 16; Numbers 8:17; John 10:36)
- C. The process of biblical change is called *sanctification*.

Sanctification is a cooperative process between God and us. The Holy Spirit works in our lives, we respond accordingly, and spiritual growth is the result. Our responsibilities include:

- Saying no to sins and fleshly desires
- Meditating on God’s Word
- Becoming a doer of God’s Word