



Mature and Equipped

Outcomes of Discipleship

“When a person makes a confession of faith and is never taken through a formal discipleship process, there is little hope of seeing genuine spiritual transformation.”

– Dr. Howard Hendricks

What is a Disciple?

Simply put, a disciple is a follower of Jesus Christ. S/he is growing in love for, and trust in, Christ. As a member of a Discipleship Group s/he will covenant together with the other group members to meet weekly for the purpose of growing toward becoming a fully mature and equipped follower of Jesus.

What is Spiritual Growth?

Maturing spiritually involves developing both the internal characteristics and external behaviors of a disciple. Below are the marks of a mature and equipped follower of Jesus.

Marks of a Fully Mature and Equipped Follower of Jesus

(Internal Characteristics)

- I. Understands the Gospel**
 - rests securely in the finished work of Christ as the basis for a relationship with God
 - gains a primary identity as a child of God
 - sees the story of scripture as redemption and not morality
- II. Hungers and Thirsts for Righteousness**
 - yearns to walk in obedience to God
 - has an increasing awareness of and hatred toward personal sin
 - is convinced that power for Christian living comes through walking in the Spirit
- III. Holds the Spiritual Disciplines in Proper Light**
 - sees the means of grace as ways to pursue God rather than ritual duties to perform
 - delights in the reason for and result of becoming disciplined in the faith
 - believes sanctification is by grace and works diligently to grow out of that context
- IV. Wisely Stewards Time, Talents, and Treasures**
 - sees God as the owner of all resources
 - has a vision for life and ministry
 - understands the need to use resources for both the local body and the world
- V. Has Compassion on Those Separated from God**
 - believes all sinners are made in the image of God and worthy of respect
 - sees prayer as an essential responsibility in ministry to and for specific sinners
 - seeks to be used by God in the redemption of sinners
- VI. Holds to Sound Doctrine and Theology**
 - can separate truth from error in essential as well as important areas
 - has convictions but shows charity and humility in secondary matters
 - values loving God with the mind and is committed to being a lifelong learner
- VII. Helps Others Grow in Their Passionate Pursuit of God**
 - has a conviction of and vision for multiplication
 - understands the goal of discipleship is that others become Christ-like
 - celebrates the distinctive calling of God on each, unique follower of Christ

Habits of a Fully Mature and Equipped Follower of Jesus (External Behaviors)

- I. Understands the Gospel**
 - consistently speaks the gospel to self
 - approaches God boldly, regularly, and repeatedly
 - can articulate the redemptive narrative throughout the bible

- II. Hungers and Thirsts for Righteousness**
 - prays for God to increase satisfaction in Him and decrease gratification in the flesh
 - repents regularly to those whom it is appropriate to do so
 - knows how to and practices daily the appropriation of the Spirit's power
 - increasingly overcomes sin and demonstration of holiness (fruit is becoming more ripe)

- III. Holds the Spiritual Disciplines in Proper Light**
 - consistently reads the Word to hear from God and prays to talk to God
 - consistently memorizes and meditates on God's Word to guide right thinking
 - works hard to grow but places hope in God rather than discipline for growth
 - speaks well of accountability and reaches out to others for help in becoming disciplined

- IV. Wisely Stewards Time, Talents, and Treasures**
 - develops a well thought/prayed through Life Plan and executes it
 - freely gives resources to the local church and other strategic opportunities
 - intentionally seeks balance in the primary roles of life (spouse, parent, worker, & friend)

- V. Has Compassion on Those Separated from God**
 - Speaks poorly of the devil but well of people (calls the enemy the enemy)
 - fights for specific sinners by regularly interceding on their behalf
 - actively looks for ways to serve specific sinners and share the gospel with them

- VI. Holds to Sound Doctrine and Theology**
 - appropriately corrects/rebukes when error is taught on essential and important truths
 - can separate essential truths, important truths, and secondary opinions
 - speaks kindly to and graciously about others who hold differing secondary opinions
 - converses with others, reads literature, and/or takes classes to sharpen convictions

- VII. Helps Others with Their Passionate Pursuit of God**
 - trains others in the fundamentals of the faith (replicates the "how to's")
 - maintains a focus on the goal of becoming Christ-like (rather than person-like)
 - envisions others to do the same as has been done to them