

Complete in Christ – How to Disciple Believers to Maturity

Just because someone attends church on a regular basis doesn't mean they have reached maturity in their faith. In fact, churches are full of comfortable attendees who have not yet become true disciples. In Colossians 1:28, Paul declares the focus of his toil for the church in Colossae – that he might “present everyone mature in Christ.” What does it mean for us to have this as our goal as well? What exactly is maturity, and how do we help believers move from passive participation to active disciple-making?

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I. What Is Our North Star in Ministry?

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matt. 28:18-20)

How many commands do you see in the Great Commission?

In the original Greek there are only two:

1. Make Disciples
2. Behold

This is our North Star in ministry

Make Disciples, while always looking to Jesus.

Disciples... of Jesus
for Jesus
like Jesus did

II. How Did Jesus Make Disciples?

He led them on a path from *Unbelief* to *Maturity*

Five Challenges of Christ

1. Come and see (John 1:39, 46)
2. Repent and believe (Mark 1:15)
3. Follow me (John 1:43)
4. Follow me and I will make you fishers of men (Matt. 4:19)
5. I am sending you (John 20:21)

III. What Is Maturity?

Stability and fruitfulness no matter what the circumstances

How many believers get stuck in challenge 3 (“Follow me”)?

We often make participants instead of disciples

We often produce programs rather than reproducing disciple makers

We often feed spiritual children, rather than release spiritual adults

Probably at least 80% of the believers in our churches are not yet mature in Christ.

How do we take believers all the way to spiritual maturity?

IV. Five Secrets to Discipling Believers to Maturity (challenge 4 & 5)

1. Proactivity - Mark 1:16-20

“I will make you...”

If you wait, it will always be too late.

2. “With”-ness - Mark 1:21-17, Mark 3:14

Six fishing trips

“He appointed twelve that they might be **with him...**”

3. Problems

Some leaders use people to solve problems

Some leaders see people as problems and try to fix them

Jesus used problems to develop people

Mark 3:16 - used a problem to teach

Mark 4:35 – used a problem to show the power of God

Mark 6:30-44- people are hungry – used a problem to equip

Mark 6:51 – used a problem to stretch their faith

Mark 9:29 – used a problem to teach them about persevering prayer

Don't waste a good problem!

4. Empowerment – Mark 3:15

He empowered them with responsibilities
He empowered them with authority
He empowered them with instructions

5. Friendship – John 15:9,15

“Abide in my love..”

“I have called you friends”

Love is the most powerful motivator there is.

“Do you love me? Feed my sheep.”

V. The Hidden Gain of Maturity

Maturity releases multiplication – John 15:8

Multiplying disciples is the only way to reach the world for Christ – Matt 28:18-20