

INSIGHT

The Bible teaches us that the first century believers “were called Christians first at Antioch.” Acts 11:26 Prior to this, all the believers were known as *disciples*. And even after being called Christians at Antioch, they continued to be referred to as disciples. It is interesting to know that the term *Christian* appears only 3 times in the New Testament, while the term *disciple* over 260 times. This is due to the fact that the nature of Christianity is not a life of complacency and laziness, but rather of discipline, diligence and growth.

The word *disciple* means a learner or pupil. The term is virtually absent from the Old Testament, though there are two related references (*1 Chron. 25:8; Isa. 8:16*). In the Greek world, the word *disciple* normally referred to an adherent of a particular teacher or religious/philosophical school. It was the task of the disciple to learn, study, and pass along the sayings and teachings of the master. In rabbinic Judaism the term *disciple* referred to one who was committed to the interpretations of Scripture and religious tradition given him by the master or rabbi. Through a process of learning which would include a set meeting time and such methods as question and answer, instruction, repetition, and memorization, the disciple would become increasingly devoted to the master and the master's teachings. In time, the disciple would, likewise, pass on the traditions to others. Jesus taught His apostles the ways of God through discipleship. He taught them through instruction, answering questions, proposing questions, correction and by His example. His discipleship taught them to be servants of God and to love all men. It is only through discipleship that one can grow into the likeness of Christ. Remember, disciples are **made**...not born! *Matt. 28:19*

The Body Of Christ

God's Plan: Being Discipled

Key Text: **Matthew 28:19-20** *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

Theme:

It is indisputable that the Bible teaches the necessity of discipline in the lives of Christians. Discipleship is important in maturing Christians to Christ, but it is the responsibility of the one who has confessed Jesus as Lord to persevere in his or her Christian growth. It is our personal responsibility to grow and mature. If we don't grow in our faith, it is our fault, not the teacher's.

Application:

Here are some practical suggestions:

1. Arrange a regular time to meet together with the one who is discipling you each week.
2. Strive to have daily contact with your discipler.
3. Be open to spiritual correction.
4. Get to know each other personally.
5. Get into good habits to train yourself:
 - Have regular quiet times and prayer times.
 - Be organized with your time, studies, etc...
 - Be evangelistic, outgoing and friendly.

May the Lord richly bless you!

SERMON OUTLINE	SMALL GROUP STUDY
<p>Discipleship and Christ</p> <p>I. God's Plan</p> <p>A. Disciple defined</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greek word: <i>Mathètes</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A pupil, a learner b. Jesus' definition: <i>Luke 6:40</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- involves a growing process -- goal is to be as the teacher <p>B. Disciples Are Made--Mt 28:19</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Through baptism 2. Teach them to obey (observe) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Disciples must be taught to obey b. Submit to those who teach 3. Focus of the baptized believer: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Make Christ's commands their rule b. Observe all good things c. Learn from teachers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --<i>Eph 4:8, 11-13</i> <p>C. The Disciple's Heart</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Willingness to learn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Basis: humility (<i>Matt. 18:3-4</i>) 2. Willingness to imitate good <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- <i>As I follow the example of Christ (1 Cor 11:1)</i> 3. Willingness to seek advice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- <i>Prov 12:15</i> 4. Willingness to be corrected <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- <i>Prov 10:17</i> <p>C. The Outcome</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less of self and more like Jesus <p>D. The Test: Pleasurable or Miserable?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are you a pleasure to work with? 	<p>Warm-up:</p> <p>Who is a <i>friend</i>? How does your definition of a <i>friend</i> differ from other people's definition?</p> <p>See To It Proverbs 27:5-6</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is open rebuke better than hidden love? Is "hidden love" love at all? Explain. 2. Why do many people refrain from telling the truth about a person's shortcomings? 3. How do people usually view those who speak the truth in regards to correction? Read Galatians 4:16. Was Paul being a friend or an enemy? Why? 4. What would an enemy do to his associates? <p>Seeing It Closer:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do you react to correction? 2. Do you seek advice frequently? Why or why not? 3. How have you been a friend to those around you? Do you find yourself <u>gently</u> correcting those who need correction? <p>Getting To It:</p> <p>Pray for one another that we would be true friends to all people, especially to the household of God.</p>