

Series till Thanksgiving

Disciples – followers of Jesus

Our culture – converts vs. disciples

"There can be no Savior without Lord" Tozer

Mission given by Jesus – make disciples

Helps with aligning our priorities

Enables you to understand what we are about

1. The Invitation

a) to relationship

"16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." John 3:16-17

- you were apart from God Eph 2:1-5
- Christ made a way on the cross Eph 2:5-9 b) To Respond
 - by accepting for yourself
- -"17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation." 2 Cor. 5:17ff

- by embracing God's design

"36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

- ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matt. 22:36-38
 - choosing to be obedient
- 15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you" John 14

2. The Expectation

Matt 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- a) All Authority
 - huge statement, over..... Everything
 - demonstrated by Jesus over and over
 - b) Go make disciples of all nations
 - as you live life be about this mission

Psalm 139:13-16 "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Acts 17:24-26 "The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

- d) Teaching them to observe what I commanded You.
- 1 John 3:3-6 ". 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness 5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him."

- journey vs. destination thinking
- maturity is the expectation clearly in scripture
- being examples of.....
 - repentance, forgiveness, restoration
 - dependence on Holy Spirit, faith
 - modeling and teaching biblical truth
- both learning and teaching at same time

- your life, uniquely and purposefully given, has been placed here by design from God.
 - you have a role in making disciples
 - c) Baptizing Them
 - participation publicly
 - presence of Holy Spirit

- e) I am with you always to the end of the age
 - Rom 8 nothing can separate us
 - when what I ask is counter cultural
 - when following me brings persecution
 - when disciple making isn't convenient
 - always

3. Clear Directions

- given a specific blueprint for discipleship
- a) community essential
 - Col. 3:12-17
 - 59 one another's in N.T. (love one another, greet one another, consider one another, out do one another, bear with one another, comfort one another, forgive one another...)

- b) gifts of Holy Spirit and roles in Body critical
- Romans 12:4-5 "⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them

-Eph 4:15-16 "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

1 Cor. 12:14-17 "14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose"

1 Cor. 12:4-7 "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

- clear you are gifted and chosen by God

So What?

- 1. Respond to God's Offer
 - become a child of God disciple
- 2. Engage in Discipleship
 - begin with embracing God's design
 - realign yourself in obedience
 - respond with a yes in word and deed
- 3. Embrace Community
 - discover your role/gift in His body
 - journey with others