

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP:
THE MEANS AND THE END OF
GREAT COMMISSION MINISTRY

1 Thessalonians 5:11-22

We are to proclaim Jesus in order to make disciples who follow Him through a growing willingness to:

- warn one other away from sin
- teach one other how to live in the gentleness of wisdom
- love one another according to the grace of God

Christian discipleship is the *investment* of your life-in-Christ in someone else's life-in-Christ.

You use *your* spiritual bank account to make a *deposit* into *another* Christian's spiritual bank account.

Christian discipleship involves *teaching* Christians to *obey* what God is teaching *us* about living to worship, please, and enjoy Him.

Christian discipleship is the *relationship* between two or more Christians where God works His blessings of grace in and through *your life* to instruct and strengthen other believers in *their relationship* with Jesus Christ.

Christian discipleship is a *God-ordained relationship* of growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ — of becoming like Jesus *together*.

THREE SIMPLE CHARACTERISTICS OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

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I. Christian Discipleship is *Relational*

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parakaleo (“encourage”) = to strengthen, *comfort*, exhort

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“...one another...” = **reciprocal** action or the idea of **mutual** encouragement; one-to-another spiritual upbuilding

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oikodomeo (“build up”) = as a house, to restore, to repair.

Metaphorically, the idea of building up someone in Christian growth.

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“urge” is the same word (*parakaleo*) used in 4:18 and 5:11,
and now twice in this verse

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Five types of struggling sheep, or sinful behavior, which warrants the attention of caring involvement

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- “*admonish*” = warn away from sin/consequences

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*Relating to **wayward** disciples:*

- “*admonish*” = warn away from sin/consequences
- “*unruly*” = undisciplined and disorderly

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- “*fainthearted*” = prone to fear, worry, doubt, discouragement

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*Relating to **weak** disciples:*

- “*help*” = literally to take up or to concern yourself with
- “*weak*” = feeble; those who are spiritually/morally immature and undiscerning

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II. Christian Discipleship is *Sacrificial*

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*Relating to **wearisome** disciples*

- *“be patient with all men”*

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- “evil” also translates “meanness or wickedness”

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II. Christian Discipleship is *Sacrificial*

*Relating to **wicked** disciples*

- *“evil” also translates “meanness or wickedness”*
- *“...but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all men.”*

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How purposed and intentional are you in how you invest in others for the glory of God and their upbuilding in grace?

How much of your time, energy, and resources are being used each day of your life in **deliberate attempts** to help others grow in *“the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ”*?
(Ephesians 4:13)

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III. Christian Discipleship is *Intentional*

Our methods of discipleship must **grow out of our understanding of God's truth** regarding godly living as a local body of believers.

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- Luke 6:39-40
- Hebrews 13:7, 17

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- A disciple maker is first a disciple.
- A disciple maker is a patient listener.
- A disciple maker is a **thoughtful speaker**.

GRACE CHURCH
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