

# How To Disciple



*The lives we touch  
Will touch others*

**A disciple is someone who is willing to pattern their life after the lifestyle of another person.**

*One who discipled is someone who is willing to live their life in such a way that a disciple looks forward to becoming like their discipler for the discipler's life brings life.*

**Jesus wants us to do what He did and live like He did...and then teach others to do the same thing.**

**“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.(Matthew 28:19-20 NASB)**

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# What Is a Disciple?

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*No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 12:11)*

1. **A Disciple is not always a**

- a. convert
- b. believer - All believers are not disciples. Many believe in Christ, yet never follow His teachings.
- c. Non-believer

2. **What is a Disciple?**

A follower of a particular teacher; an adherent of the principles of some leader or thought, exp. one of the twelve personal followers of Jesus Christ; sometimes any follower of Christ.

a. The Greek word for disciple is *Mathetes*

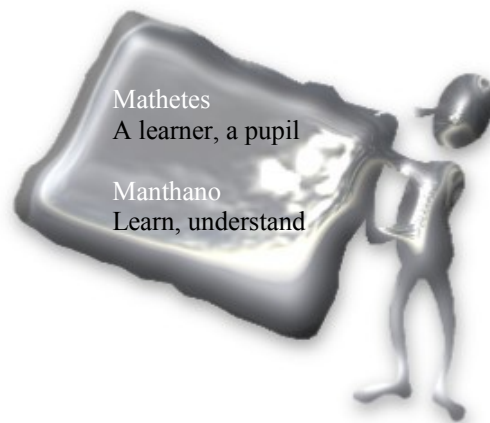
1. learn
2. follow

b. It comes from the root word, manthano

manthanō <i>man-than'-o</i> to <i>learn</i> (in any way):—learn, understand.
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c. The word, mathetes, when used, is always associated with following. Disciples do more than simply believe. Many believed in Christ; few followed Him. Few dropped their normal life routine to become followers. Note that up to five hundred followed Him during the height of His popularity.

d. The primary use of *mathetes* in the Gospels described the relationship between the earthly followers of Jesus during His earthly mission: the twelve, the seventy, and the five hundred. The context requires us to think of a disciple as a committed follower of Jesus Christ. It means more than just a believer, but a person who demonstrates belief by action.



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## More Definition of Terms

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- e. The first time *mathetes* is used to be synonymous with Christian is in the book of Acts. It is used in general, not just the personal followers of Christ. It includes those who did not know Jesus personally (while Jesus physically walked the earth); for instance, Timothy was called a disciple. The mark of a disciple in Acts is found in 6:7, obedience of the faith.

*The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith. (Acts 6:7 NASB)*



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# What Is a Mentor?

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*“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. “It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. (Matthew 10:24-29 NASB)*

## What is a Mentor?

- a. A mentor is a wise and faithful adviser or tutor
  1. adviser - one who gives advice or admonition; a counselor. (advise - to give counsel to; to counsel; to give information to; to inform; to give notice to; to acquaint.
  2. tutor - instructor - denotes teaching a specific subject
  
- b. Mentoring is giving instruction on how to do a specific task, with appropriate counseling in that area (i.e. marriage, selling, management, parenting, how to study, etc.).
  
- c. To disciple is giving instruction on how to live doing those particular tasks (i.e. integrity, commitment, submission, love, joy, peace, etc. by personal example and involvement). To disciple demands instruction by example. Jesus taught by precept and demonstration.



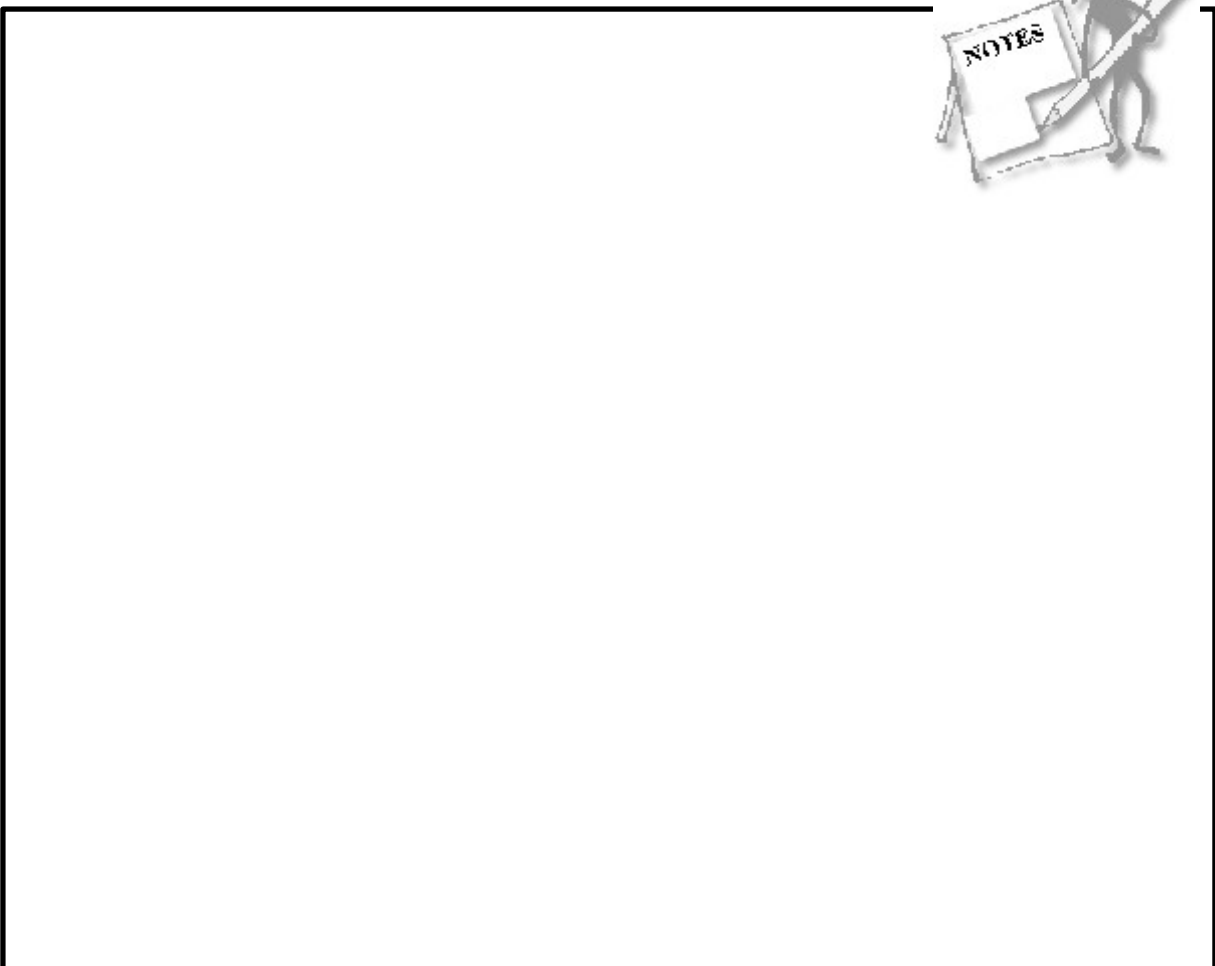
And he saith unto them, Follow me (*precept*), and I will make you fishers of men (*demonstration*). (Matthew 4:19 KJV)



- d. The best situation is when discipling and mentoring happen at the same time.  
Mentoring without being one who disciples is merely instruction.



To teach on plumbing could be mentoring. To instruct on the *Bush Method* of plumbing could be being one who disciples. Instruction on plumbing would only require information concerning same. To properly instruct on the *Bush Method* would require knowing more intimate details concerning Bush's method which would include the character with which Bush conducted the plumbing business.



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# Requirements for Discipling

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Every Christian *should* be a disciple and every Christian *should* become one who discipled.

a. The disciple

1. **must be a Christian** (note: becoming a Christian is like entering into school. You are not a graduate, but you are a student. You must first become a student in order to graduate). Trying to disciple a non-Christian is like trying to enforce family rules on a non-family member.

**Proselytizing and being one who discipled are not synonymous**

2. **must be willing to be a disciple.** (note: you cannot force a student to learn. They must *want to* learn.)
3. **must be submitted to being a disciple.** (note: a person may be willing, yet not submit themselves or present themselves to being a disciple. Remember some of the disciples that Jesus had. They were willing to be disciples to follow, but they would not submit themselves to Jesus' teachings. That's why some of them left Him, eventually).

**Desire and commitment are not synonymous**

b. The one who discipled

1. **must be a Christian.** (note: the best one who discipled is one who has been a disciple, whether by one or by many).
2. **Jesus must be Lord as well as Savior.** (note: presenting Jesus as simply a deliverer from hell is mentoring. Learning to live with Him as Lord is being one who discipled).
3. **Puts Christ before self, family and stuff** (Luke 14:25-35). (note: if Christ isn't first, you will then disciple others to you and not to Christ).
4. **Committed to Christ's teachings.**

You should not **practice** what you **preach**. You should **preach** what you **practice**.

5. **Love others as Christ loves.** (John 13:34, 35) (note: being one who disciples is not an 8 to 5 job.) It is a commitment to give instruction and an example of the life of Christ. This cannot be done as a matter of convenience. Love is never a leisure. You do not love your mate, child, etc. when it is convenient. As a matter of fact the display of your love is most prevalent during those trying, uncomfortable and inconvenient moments in your life.



**When sacrifice is needed, love is more clearly seen.**

6. **Abides in Christ** (John 15:7-17) (note: when you un-hook, so does your disciple). The following are results of abiding in Christ.
- a. Obedient to the Word of God
  - b. Bears fruit
  - c. Glorifies God
  - d. Has joy



**Unless a light bulb is screwed into a light socket, it is useless**



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# How To Disciple

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**When a disciple is fully taught, he will be like his teacher**

- a. **Bible study groups.** They should not be depended upon as the sole means of discipleship. While biblical knowledge can be imparted, only a little lifestyle is taught from group study. This is better earned from real life experiences shown by the discipler.
- b. **Know your audience.** Being one who discipled a business man, a working single mother and a ten-year-old Mexican boy or girl all require different tools.

1. How well do you know your audience?

a. Language—**Exercise #1—page #12**

**Define the five words. Give a definition for each word that would be clear to an unsaved person or a child.**

b. Paul related to the world of his hearers by talking knowledgeably and uncritically about things that were important to them. We could do the same thing today by:

- 1. Understanding the culture we live in
- 2. Showing interest in the ideas of others
- 3. Looking for “tie-ins” to help people see what God is doing for them.
- 4. Stimulating thinking without offensively indicating that those who disagree with us are jerks. (note: we often cause young people to feel this way because they don’t see life from our “adult” and “Christian” perspective).

- c. **Know your testimony** in short (and in terminology your audience can understand).  
**Exercise #2 Write testimony—page #13**
- d. **Use Jesus as your example** for meeting needs.



e. **Our lives should be transparent**

1. We must be careful to not self-righteously separate ourselves from the people who are becoming disciples - (i.e. “us - them” mentality). If our lives together are not relative, we preach religion and not live Christianity. This self-righteous attitude drives people away. Are you willing to expose your life to the ones who are being discipled? How else will they learn how to handle day to day situations the way Jesus would unless they see you repent when you are angry at your wife; repent when you’ve not kept your word, etc.?

f. **Check our hearts for bigotry.** The biggest hindrance to discipleship is prejudice of all kinds. Pity is weakening to the people we help and judging the hearts of people causes us to sit in satan’s chair, exalting ourselves above God’s knowledge of the individual.



g. **Let Love Motivate.** Let us check our motives for being one who discipled. Our sharing with others ideally should arise from a desire to please the One we love and to bring the greatest possible good into the lives of others. Love is the most effective motivation for witnessing. (Acts 8:26-40).

h. **Be willing to model lifestyle by building relationships.**

1. Find out what is important to your disciple. We all fall into different categories that change as we change over the years. These areas are most important to grabbing the attention of the people you are talking to.

i. **Define a realistic plan** that we want modeled by the disciple -

1. Bible lesson which should include applicable lifestyle management. (note: scripture memory with no application is a waste).
2. Relationship building. This should include time in their environment *and* in your environment. Disciples should not be volleyed between disciplers until disciples are stable.
3. Accountability. This should include measurable (and reasonable) goals, rewards and evaluations of plus and delta (what’s going good (plus), what could be better (delta) with a workable process for improvement. Spend 80% of your time on maximizing strengths and 20% on strengthening weaknesses.

4. True devotion time. Praying together. Incorporating them into your church program. (Note: Don't expect someone else to do this) Make sure they are involved in helping in the church wherever possible. Share those vulnerable moments and bringing them to testimonies of victory.



Exercise #1—Defining Language

<b>Saved</b>	
<b>Sanctified</b>	
<b>Anointed</b>	
<b>Full of the Spirit</b>	
<b>Witness</b>	

Exercise #2—Your Testimony



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