

CALL to PRAYER - Pray that we would be obedient disciples and disciple makers.

Intro - It is good to be back after a week away because of weather... Over the last few months, we have been defining some common terms in our faith. The words are basic in our belief system, but we use them more than we define them so their definitions can become clouded or lost because of the familiar of usage. Today we are going to define Discipleship. The text I am about to read is what we call the *Great Commission*. The SBC is very good at "*going into all the world.*" We have a commendable emphasis on evangelism, but I would say that we are deficient regarding discipleship. Well, the GC says that we are to make disciples. We are to baptize those disciples, and we are to teach them to obey everything our Lord has commanded. We are not called to push for one-time decisions; we are called to make life-long disciples. But what is a disciple? Here is my definition of discipleship used for the message - "*Discipleship is the S.L.O. process of learning to think and act biblically. It is learning to apply all of Scripture to all of life.*"

Matthew 28:16-20 - Definitions 23 - What is Discipleship?

- Defining discipleship is very important because it is a big part of what the church is to be about. *Make disciples.....baptize disciples....teach disciples to obey...*
 - The church cannot make "believers." (if it tries it might just make "make-believers")
Only God can make believers. We are to make disciples
- Discipleship is the S.L.O process of learning to think....
 - Often (in SBC) we focus on the moment of belief - we cheer at the starting gate
 - Discipleship is the long race....a life-long race after the gun goes off
 - If main focus is the starting line...then may never finish the race

S - SUBMIT

- Discipleship is coming under the authority of someone. Learning to submit
 - The most basic confession of our faith is, "JESUS IS LORD."
 - A disciple believes this and bows to Jesus' word and will - Matt. 28:16-17 a
disciple may doubt but even our doubts must bow to His Lordship
 - A disciple has been conquered by Christ. We are His bond-slaves - Eph. 6:6
 - Jesus has all authority - Matt. 28:18 Christ's disciple submits to His authority - Luke. 6:46
- LifeWay - 2025 State of Theology - survey of evangelical belief system
 - "*Does the Bible have the authority to tell us what we must do?*"
 - Only 50% agree with that statement. (which means that 50% of evangelicals are not disciples)
 - If your mindset is, "*You can't tell me what to do*" then you are not a disciple.
A REBEL IS NOT A DISCIPLE.
 - A disciple has it settled in his mind that he will submit to Jesus Christ
 - Church life...home life...work life...civic life...school life...play life...thought life...all of life
 - A disciple acknowledges Jesus' Lordship and takes his place under that authority
 - "*Lord, You tell me how I should think and how I should act...*" Mind of Christ
 - The SLO process of discipleship begins with submission

L - LEARN

- ❖ A disciple is a learner/student *"a learner in the school of Christ"* (Dictionary of Theology)
 - The disciple is in school because he needs to learn - doesn't know what he should
 - We all begin our faith with lack of information so we need to learn what the will of the Lord is. Eph. 5:10, 17 *"Learn of Me..."*
- ❖ A disciple begins to learn to discern
 - We also bring with us a lot of baggage when we first believe.
 - We all have assumptions & traditions (the good, the bad & the ugly)
 - Isaiah 55:8-9
 - As you read the Bible you might notice how the god of popular opinion differs from the God of Divine revelation.
 - Disciples learn to discern between culture and scripture
 - Psalm 25:4-5
- ❖ A disciple continues in Christ word
 - John 8:31-32 Disciples are not dropouts they abide/remain - 2 John 9
 - True disciples follow Christ's lead and are not ashamed of Christ word
 - Mark 8:38
- ❖ Disciples find out that their learning has no ending
 - 1 Cor. 8:2
 - 2 Peter 3:18 - the more you know the more you grow
- ❖ The SLO process of learning from the eternal Lord. Everlasting learning

O - OBEY

- Disciples are not just learners of Christ's word; they are doers of Christ's word
 - The SLO process of learning to be obedient Matt. 28:20
 - Obedience is an ingredient of discipleship.
 - It is a fruit of discipleship - John 15:8 friendship - John 15:13-14
- Disciples learn to obey Christ's apostles (there are no Apostles today. Only 12 or 13 - foundational)
 - Luke 10:16
 - Jesus' apostles have His authority. To reject them is to reject God - 1 John 4:6
 - The church is to be devoted to the apostles doctrine - Acts 2:42
- The SLO process of discipleship involves teaching them to obey - Matt. 28:20
 - This is to happen at church...in Christian fellowship...1 on 1 discipleship
 - As a Christian you are to be being disciplined by someone? coached while you are running
 - As a Christian you are to be disciplining someone? coaching while you are running
 - Are you?....and....do you?

Discipleship is the SLO process of learning to think and act biblically. It is learning to apply all of Scripture to all of life.

We are not called to make one-time decisions but to be life-long disciples - Matt. 28:16-20