

Making Disciples Who Can Make Disciples

12/09/2025

Introduction:

The mission statement of Breesport Baptist Church is that we exist to glorify God by making more and better disciples of Christ. This statement is born out of the fact that the church of Jesus Christ has not been called to make spectators, consumers, converts, or even believers, but disciples of Christ. Consider the following post-resurrection Great Commission texts, all spoken by Christ Himself, that speak to the call upon the church to go and make disciples to the ends of the earth:

¹⁸ 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." (Matthew 28:18-20)

¹⁵ And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. (Mark 16:15)

⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. (Luke 24:46-47)

²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." (John 20:21)

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Considering this, the most important indicator of whether or not we are being successful at moving our mission forward is to ask the question, "Are we actually making disciples?" In considering this question we must not be content with answers such as, "Our people are fun to be around...our people love one another...our people are good givers...our people are willing to serve, or our people love to sing." We cannot afford to settle for anything less than the purposeful and regular creation of disciples of Christ who are equipped to reproduce themselves in others (disciples who make disciples).

This is the key distinction between simple reproduction and multiplication. As I said earlier, the church has not been called to simply make converts, but disciples. So, evangelism isn't enough. Converts must be discipled so that they are able to reproduce themselves in others who can also reproduce themselves. Notice, 2 Timothy 2...

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (2 Timothy 2:1-2)

Reproduction can be seen in the ministry of Paul to Timothy. Multiplication, however, can be seen in Timothy taking the investment of Paul and passing that on to people who will also pass it on. The Great Commission calls for nothing less than one becoming two, becoming four, and so on. The church exists for this mission. It does not exist for itself. Its mission is to penetrate hostile environments with the Gospel with the goal of multiplying disciples. Notice the metaphors used in Scripture for the work of the church: Leaven, Salt, Light, an Army, Ambassadors, and Pilgrims. Each of these things picture movement and penetration. If the church loses this God given sense of mission, it has lost its soul and its purpose.

Definition of a Disciple:

A Disciple of Jesus Christ is one who **follows** Christ (Matthew 16:24), is **transformed** by Christ (Luke 6:40), **obeys** Christ (John 14:15), and is **on mission** with Christ (Matthew 28:18-20) to multiply more and better disciples of Jesus Christ.

Process of Discipleship:

There are three people involved in the Discipleship process: the mentor (2 Timothy 2:2), the disciple (2 Peter 1:5-7), and the Spirit of God (2 Corinthians 3:18 and Philippians 2:12-13).

There are four main spheres of development:

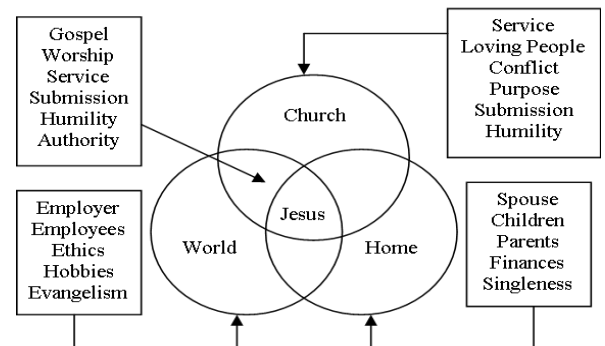
1. His relationship to God.
2. His relationship to His Family
3. His relationship to the Church
4. His relationship to the World

In each of these spheres the disciple needs to understand God's commands and submit to His authority. He will then be transformed by Christ as he encounters the ongoing work of the Gospel in these dominate arenas of life. He will then be equipped to join Jesus on mission in each of these areas.

So, as we consider those we are working with, we ask the following questions:

- Does the person I am working with know what Jesus has to say about growing in a relationship with Him? Is he willing to surrender to Christ? Does he spend regular time with Jesus in Bible reading and prayer? Does he know how to study, interpret, and apply the Bible? How is he abiding or failing to abide in Christ?
- Are there visible changes in his life? Is he doing the right things for the right reasons? How has his character changed and what areas are still in need of change? Is he evidently growing in love for God and love for people?

Four Spheres of Development:



- Is he concerned about the salvation of others? Does he know how to resolve conflict? How is he leading in his home? How does he perform at work or school? Does he have healthy relationships with believers and unbelievers?

Here at Breesport Baptist Church we have built our process around four broad categories called Connect, Grow, Serve, Multiply.



- **Connect** - to connect people to God, His Word, and an authentic group of Christ-followers in dynamic and Biblically defined relationships. As a mentor you should always be thinking about who else you can connect your disciple to in the Body of Christ as you help them see God in more Biblical, impactful, and transformative ways through His Word and redeemed community.
- **Grow** - to help people grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ through the passionate, relevant, practical, and Gospel centric preaching and teaching of the Scriptures leading to life change. This ministry is intended to connect a new believer or a returning believer to a more mature mentor who can disciple them in the fundamentals of the Christian faith, help them discern their areas of giftedness and service, and to get plugged into the wider life of the church.
- **Serve** - in recognition of the priesthood of all believers we believe that every Believer should be a minister who has been trained, equipped, and empowered to serve in meaningful ways inside and outside the church.

The recommended methodology for discipling someone in ministry is as follows:

- I do. You watch. We talk.
- I do. You help. We talk.
- You do. I help. We talk.
- You do. I watch. We talk.
- You do. Someone else watches. We talk.

- **Multiply** - to train and motivate believers to reproduce themselves in others in such a way that their disciple is trained and motivated to also make disciples. Multiplication is needed because hell is real, worship is lacking, and evangelism and discipleship glorify God, which is the purpose for which we were created.

Conclusion:

Jesus, as Lord of the church, has the sole authority to define the purpose of the church. In His wisdom He has determined that the purpose of His church is to multiply and grow through the work of making disciples who make disciples. As a local church we must be committed to the cause of Christ, submitted to His will as revealed in His Word, living humbly before Him, and joyfully on mission with Him.