



Sermon: "Back to the Basics: Discipleship is Our Lifelong Commitment"

Scripture: Colossians 1:28-29

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Introduction:

- Discipleship is at the very **heart** of Christianity. It is at the core of the **existence** of the church.

Scriptures: Matthew 28:19; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-3; Philippians 3:17; 4:9;
Colossians 2:6-7

"Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me." Colossians 1:28-29

I. The Christ-Centered **Message** of Discipleship. (v. 28a)

Discipleship is about proclaiming Jesus in relation to **every aspect** of life.

- 1) Discipleship is about **knowing** Jesus, not **concluding** a curriculum.
Scripture: Philippians 3:8-11

So, where does discipleship happen best?

- 2) Discipleship is about **loving** Jesus, not **completing** a check list.
Scripture: Mark 12:29-31

- 3) Discipleship is about **imitating** Jesus, not **conforming** to a culture.

II. The Practical **Methods** of Discipleship (v. 28b)

- a. **Warning Everyone:** Cautioning about the deception of the **human heart**.
Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- b. **Teaching Everyone:** Communicating the delights of **Biblical truth**.

Three sure fire ways to NOT mature in Christ.

- 1) **Stay away from God's **Word** and God's **people**.** (2 Tim 3:16-17; Hebrews 10:24-27)
- 2) **Fail to train yourself through constant **application** of God's Word.** (Hebrews 5:14)
- 3) **Despise the Lord's **discipline**.** (Proverbs 3:11-12; James 1:2-4)

III. The Ultimate **Aim** of Discipleship (v. 28c)

In what way do “perfect” or “mature” fail to capture well the Greek word “*teleios*”?

The “*teleios*” disciple will be **undivided** in heart and mind in their orientation towards Jesus Christ.

Scripture: Philippians 3:12-16; Titus 2:11-12

IV. The Demanding **Work** of Discipleship (v. 29)

a. Disciplemaking demands **hard work**.

b. Disciplemaking demands **God’s power**.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:10

Christians often fail to engage in the demanding work of discipleship because they underestimate God’s Word and God’s power.

Questions to Consider:

1. What are some ways that you already proclaim Christ to others? What are some areas of life where you’d like to grow in proclaiming Christ? (Don't think location, but areas of application.)
2. What are some examples in the New Testament of specific warnings and teachings?
3. What role do practical warnings and teaching play in discipleship?
4. Why do the words “perfect” and “mature” fail to capture well the word “*teleios*” and why it is important to understanding the aim of discipleship?
5. How does the work of discipleship keep us from engaging in discipleship?
6. What excuses do we use for not engaging in discipleship? How do God’s Word and the Holy Spirit negate our excuses?

Helpful Discipleship Tools:

- “The God Who Saves” (*Matthias Media*)
- “Simply Christianity” (John Dickson, *Matthias Media*)
- “Pursuit of Godliness Series” (C.J. Mahaney, *Sovereign Grace Ministries*)
- “Growing Your Faith” (Jerry Bridges, *NavPress*)
- “Christian Beliefs: 20 Basics Every Christian Should Know” (Wayne Grudem, *Zondervan*)