Defining Discipleship

What is discipleship?

In one sentence discipleship is what Jesus did with the twelve, and what the twelve did with the early church. Let’s look at three simple elements of discipleship.

- Discipleship is what it means to be a follower of Christ.
- Discipleship is God’s method for growing the church.
- Discipleship is a non-optional mandate for those who will obey Christ.

1. When Jesus called one to follow Him, his calling was one of __________________ abandonment from the former life, __________ entrusting oneself to Christ and to His teachings. To follow Him with abandonment of all that we _______ and all that we _______.

2. Luke 5:27-28 - 27 And after that He went out, and noticed a tax-gatherer named Levi, sitting in the tax office, and He said to him, "Follow Me." 28 And he __________ ___________ ____________, and rose and began to follow Him. NAS

3. To be Christian disciple is to ____________ Christ. What did the early disciples do? Well, “they followed Him wherever He went and _______ whatever He did?”

4. God grows the church ______________ through discipleship.

5. What is the most essential element of being a disciple? Its simple, disciples __________ ____________. The very nature of discipleship is ________________.

6. This means that as ________________, or disciples, we must by ______________ be disciplemakers.

7. Acts 14:21-24 - 21 And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had _______ many ____________, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, ____________ them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God." 23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. NAS

8. Let’s face it. When we look at the twelve, and the disciples that were made by them, we see a group of people ______________ to ___________________. It is the very nature of being a Christian. The contemporary church has almost completely ______________ this very essential and fundamental element of the kingdom of God.

9. Discipleship is the ______________ then that God has chosen to __________ the world with the gospel.
10. A discipler, a believer who has already been discipled, leads __________ persons to the experience of the new birth (evangelism), thus becoming a spiritual __________. The discipler then, through the application of Jesus ______________ method, trains the new believers, personally _____________ them in their walk with Christ.

11. When the group of disciples has been __________ grounded in the Word and equipped to the point of spiritual ____________, they are commanded to carry out the same by doing with others what has been done with them. They become ________________ themselves.

12. God grows the church ______________ through discipleship.

13. They must be __________ in the Word until they are able to stand on their own feet spiritually, __________ themselves, and continue to mature in Christ as a result.

14. Disciplemaking requires a _____________ relationship between the disciple and discipler. It takes much time and a ________________ to make a disciple. This ministry belongs to each and ______________ believer. Discipling cannot be accomplished through ______________ means.

15. Teaching such a large number of people that personal ________________ cannot be formed is not discipling. The very ________________ of the word disciple demands intimacy.

16. Discipleship is a ____________ mandate for those who will obey Christ. As we have seen, disciplemaking is part of what it ____________ to be a Christian. It cannot be ________________ from your personal experience as a Christian.

17. Matt 28:18-20 - 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and _______ ___________ of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 _______________ them to _____________ all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

18. We are therefore to obey what Christ commanded the disciples, ____________ the Great Commission. When Jesus told us to follow Him, He meant to go where He goes and to _______ what He does. This first and foremost includes ________________.

19. The example of Christ is not ____________ or hard to understand, it is just that He is calling for life of _______ - ____________ in order to follow. This is not easy, but it is a ________________ for every true Christian.

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