

The Mandate: Matthew 28:18-20
The Mission of Every Church: Make Disciples of Jesus

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Introduction: Assessing how are doing in making disciples?

A. According to the research, the lifestyle, values and attitudes of Christians does not appear to be qualitatively different from the general population.

B. The image of Christians in broad strokes seems to evoke pictures of people who are angry, narrow, and judgmental.

Transition: *"We have sunk to a depth at which the restatement of the obvious is the first duty of intelligent men."* (George Orwell)

I. The Authority Behind the Mandate (Matthew 28:18)

A. Who does Jesus think He is?

B. Why does Jesus establish His authority before issuing his call?

II. The Mandate: Make Disciples (Matthew 28:19)

A. Is discipleship optional? Can you be a Christian without being a disciple?

A woman says to her pastor: "I just want to be a Christian. I don't want to be a disciple. I like my life the way it is. I believe that Jesus died for my sins, and I will be with him when I die. Why do I have to be a disciple?" (as quoted by Dallas Willard in *Renovation of the Heart*) **[How would you respond her?]**

B. How has a misunderstanding of "justification by faith alone" undermined discipleship? (Article by Robert McElvaine, "What if He's a Christian Man?")

C. The Language of Making Disciples

1. **Disciple:** "A disciple is one who responds in faith and obedience to the gracious call of Jesus to follow Him. Being a disciple is a lifelong process of dying to self while allowing Jesus Christ to come alive in us." (*Discipleship Essentials*, p. 24)

2. **Discipleship:** the process of growth in Christ-like maturity and reproduction.

3. **Discipling:** "Discipling is an intentional relationship in which we walk along other disciples in order to encourage, equip, and challenge one another in love to grow toward maturity in Christ. This includes equipping the disciple to teach others as well." (*Discipleship Essentials*, p. 17)

III. Jesus picture of a disciple: when is a disciple made?

- A. A disciple "goes": The evangelistic and missional task of the church.
- B. A disciple is "baptized": disciples are made in the community of believers rooted in the life source of the triune God.
- C. A disciple "obeys": Obedience to all that Jesus commanded is the bar that we set for all believers.
- D. A disciple reproduces: When you repeat the above cycle you have multiplication.

Conclusion: Jesus promised to provide all the resources necessary to carry out the mission to which we are called.