

What is a Disciple?

Rick Warren

I. Introduction.

- A. We should not discourage others from following us because human beings need examples.
- B. If there is something in your life that you do not want others to imitate, get rid of it.
- C. Every Christian needs a Paul and every Christian needs a Timothy.

II. Learn to ask questions.

- A. It is wise to learn from the experience of a veteran.
- B. Ask all sorts of questions of your “Paul.”

III. Learn to read.

IV. Write it down.

- A. Do not give what is holy to those who do not value it.
- B. If you do not write something down you will forget it in seventy-two hours.

V. A disciple.

- A. Can be any general follower of a person. (John 6:56)
- B. Can refer to the Twelve Disciples, which has the meaning of apprenticeship.
- C. Can refer to a Christian. (Acts)
- D. Can refer to Jesus’ expanding definition. (John 8:31-32, 13:23-24, 15:7-8, Luke 14)

VI. How Jesus trained the disciples. (John 17)

- A. Our number one purpose is to bring glory to God.
- B. Jesus’ work was to finish the work of discipleship.
- C. What Jesus did with His disciples.
 - 1. He led the disciples to salvation.
 - 2. He gave them the Word of God. (John 8:31)
 - 3. He prayed for His disciples.

4. He kept the disciples from backsliding—He kept them on track.
5. He sent the disciples out.
6. He expected the disciples to reproduce.
7. He gave them His glory—God’s very nature. The final goal of discipleship is Christ-likeness. (Colossians 1:28)
8. He loved them.

D. The goal is to raise up Timothy so that they can be co-workers. (III John)

E. Some people work better with certain kinds of people for discipleship.

F. Women should not disciple men, and men should not disciple women.

Application questions:

1. How should we understand “disciple” when we see it in the New Testament?

2. How did Jesus model discipleship for us?

3. Which aspect of Jesus’ discipleship do you find most challenging to model personally? What can you do to grow in this area? Explain.
