

DISCIPLE ONE

TRAITS OF A DISCIPLE-MAKER

OPEN: As we assist those impacted by the hurricane, which of these items might we send (bag of groceries)? Only non-perishables...

Only three things are eternal: God, His Word and the souls of men...all else will perish.

Psalm 90:2 (NLT) - Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from beginning to end, you are God.

Psalm 119:89 (NIV) - Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

Ecclesiastes 12:6-7 (NLT) - ⁶...Remember your Creator now while you are young... (don't wait until you are old and have many health issues). ⁷For then the dust will return to the earth and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

- Invest in these things...glorify God, love and live out the word, and invest in the souls of men.

Matthew 6:19-21 (NLT) - ¹⁹“Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Colossians 3:1-2 (NKJV) - ...seek those things which are above, where Christ is, ... ²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

- ❖ Spend your life doing what matters most.
- ❖ Two things we need if we are going to make disciples:

1) A HEART FOR **GOD**. (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

- We need a desire to know Him and make Him known.

Matthew 22:37-38 (NLT) - Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. (most important).

- ✓ In his book, “Personal Disciple-Making,” the author asked 500 disciple-makers from around the world: What is the most important quality for making disciples? The overwhelming answer: having a heart for God.
- Truth be told our heart is easily distracted...we often mean well but feel pulled in different directions.
- ✓ Like the seed among the thorns: **Matthew 13:22 (NLT)** - The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God’s word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, (deceitfulness of riches) so no fruit is produced.
- It is easy to become consumed by the temporary concerns of life.
- ✓ Our hearts cannot always be trusted as we are pulled away from God by sin...

Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT) - “The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?

- No wonder Solomon said: **Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)** - Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.
- The heart includes the mind (the center of thinking and reasoning), our emotions and will...it is a person’s inner being.
- ✓ Our heart affects our speech, sight (what we look at) and our conduct.
- In an effort to guard your heart (focus your heart on God)...recognize:

a) Our **affections** determine our devotion. *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*

- Affections are like the rudder of a ship, it directs the course of our life.
- To know where your affections lie: what occupies your time and how do you spend your money?

Matthew 6:21 (NLT) - Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

❖ While it is fine to have hobbies, other interests, relationships...none of these are to exceed your love for God. God deserves first place in your life.

b) Aim to make Jesus your greatest treasure. *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*

- The One who gave His life so we could have abundant life now and eternal life to come deserves our utmost love.

Philippians 3:7-9 (NLT) - ⁷I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.

- Jesus is the treasure we seek (passionately pursue Him).
 - ✓ When our passion (our attention) is diverted elsewhere, our love for Christ grows cold...the greatest treasure is no longer Christ but something or someone else.

c) Spend time with the Lord and let His light shine in your heart. *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*

- We need to focus our eyes on Jesus.

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 (NLT) - ⁶ For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. ⁷We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

- ✓ The Good News become ours when we put our faith in Christ...Christ lives in us.

❖ To love God with all your heart:

- Pursue Him daily. He delights in you and wants to reveal Himself to you.
- Pray, “Lord, I want you to be the ultimate treasure of my life. Thank you for loving and living in me.”
- Plan, what will you do today that will express your love for Him?
- Be persistent – take daily inventory and make adjustments where needed.

Psalm 42:1-2b (NLT) - ¹ As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. ² I thirst for God, the living God...

The second thing we need if we are to make disciples:

2) A HEART FOR PEOPLE. *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- Not only do we need a growing relationship with Christ, but also a love for those we disciple.
 - ✓ Listen to these words from Jesus. As for the commandments:

Matthew 22:39 (NLT) – A second is equally important: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

- ✓ People matter to God and therefore they should matter to us.

1 Peter 4:8-9 (NLT) - ⁸ Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.

- Deep or fervent love = to be stretched (picture of a runner strainer and stretching for the finish line).
- This kind of love requires putting another’s spiritual good ahead of our own desires.

- To love even when treated unkindly or ungraciously...quick to forgive.
- Don't ever treat a person like they are your project...they are someone you love.
 - ✓ Prove your love by spending time with them.
 - ✓ You earn the right to speak into their lives when they realize you truly care for them and their family.

John 13:34-35 (NLT) - ³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

- A new standard of love...sacrificial love.
- When you love and invest in people you become good friends...not only are you making disciples but you are making life-long friendships.

❖ You will want to do these two things:

a) **Pray** for those you disciple. *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*

- E.M. Bounds said: “You can't rightly talk to men about God, until you first talk to God about men.”
- Discipleship is a partnership with the Holy Spirit...trust God to work in them and accomplish His purpose.
- Jesus modeled this for us by praying for His disciples in John 17.

John 17:14-19 (NLT) - ¹⁴ I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to this world any more than I do. ¹⁷ Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. ¹⁸ Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. ¹⁹ And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.

✓ Paul prayed for those he was discipling...we see it in every letter he wrote.

b) Exercise Patience. (Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)

- Spiritual growth takes time.

1 Corinthians 3:6 (NLT) – I planted the seed in your heart, and Apollos watered it but it was God who made it grow.

✓ You can grow a squash in two months but a pecan tree takes five to seven years before it bears fruit.

- The enemy will try to discourage new believers, there will be struggles, occasional setbacks and you'll need to hang in there with them.

✓ Don't give up on people.

CLOSE: Two traits every disciple-maker needs:

- 1) A heart for God.
- 2) A heart for those you disciple.

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