

The 8 Traits of Discipleship

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Summary of video, includes the main points from the wheel graphic, everything that appeared as text on the screen, and additional main points.

(Compiled from the video by Megan Retzlaff, 9/29/2021)

What is a disciple?

1. Be Missional
 - a. "We want people to participate with Jesus, not just look at Jesus as an example."
 - b. Following Jesus is not just a vertical relationship with God. ... We also want it to be a life that works itself out horizontally, ... impacting the world around it.
 - c. This includes Evangelism, but also Justice Work – loving people on the margins, loving people incarnationally.
2. Be Biblical
 - a. "We want people to have a Biblical worldview; we want them to learn the Bible and understand doctrine."
 - b. There are doctrines that are important to know that are connected to Bible stories. Instead of just telling the stories, we should step back and talk about how the doctrines are connected. For example: the virgin birth, the trinity, atonement, etc.
 - c. You can say "I'm a person of faith," but what does that mean? "What is the content of that faith?"
 - d. A.W. Tozer – "The most important thing about you is what you think about when you think about God."
3. Have Spiritual Disciplines
 - a. The goal is not to be Christ-like, but to have union with Christ, (Colossians).
 - b. Any Christ-likeness that we show is derived from our union with Christ, which comes from spending time with God.
 - c. We jump ahead when we tell people what they should do, instead of telling them how they can get there, to a place where they would want to do those things.
 - d. Spiritual Disciplines are the habits that help us build that union. They produce results in life.
4. Be Stewards
 - a. "Areas of Stewardship: Time, Treasure, Talent, and Tent (body)"
 - b. The Tent/body is included because if we are healthy and live long, we have more ability to do things for God.
5. Be Able to Defend Your Faith (Apologetics)
 - a. Teaching people how to think, not just what to think.
 - b. "Are Christians thinking in ways that can defend the faith?"
 - c. God says to love him with our minds. Church sometimes skews to the sentimental, not the rational.
6. Have Lives of Love
 - a. John 13:35 "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
 - b. Our love is where our credibility as Christians comes from.
7. Have Character and Godliness
 - a. What sins do we need to get rid of, and what righteousness should we increase in?
 - b. "The most counter-cultural act one can do in our culture is to commit self-disobedience." (To act against our selfish desires.)
8. Be Communal
 - a. We sometimes show Christianity as an individual thing, if you believe, raise your hand, you say this prayer, you come forward.
 - b. But all the images in the New Testament are communal – the Body, the Temple, the Family, etc.
 - c. This includes both the universal and the local church.