

Defining Discipleship

Motto: "Transformed by Grace, Poured Out for Others"

Key Question: What does a disciple of Christ look like?

There are three broad categories the scriptures speak of that could be summarized this way: Up-reach, In-reach, Out-reach. These descriptions are not bound by age or stage but can be applied to all the members of Zion in an age appropriate way. The categories are overlapping, because every expression of truth has a ripple effect in every area of life.

UP-REACH

"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." (Deuteronomy 6:5)

"'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment." (Matthew 22:37-38)

"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:5)

- **Worship** is our highest and eternal calling, so learning to praise God and obey Him are fundamental to our new life
- **Prayer.** Drawing our hearts to God and reminding us of our utter dependence on Him
- **Worldview.** Drawing every thought captive to Christ.

IN-REACH

"...be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:17b-18)

"Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." (1 Timothy 4:16)

- **Gospel.** Christians are called to grow in their understanding and application of the **gospel** in their own lives
- **Scripture.** Reading, study, and memorization of **Scripture** is crucial to discipleship
- **Doctrine.** While in many cases doctrine is non-essential, it is an expression of our desire to know God and ourselves truthfully and will eventually lead—if done with integrity—to transformation

OUT-REACH

"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD." (Leviticus 19:18)

"And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:39)

"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20a)

- **Mercy & Justice.** Developing a godly concern for the least of these who are made in God's image.
- **Evangelism.** Presenting the gospel of Christ with an invitation to faith.
- **Missions.** Taking the message of the Kingdom and Christ's gospel to all nations.