

### Core Values: Generational Disciple-Making

We have all heard the Great Commission mandate: Go and make disciples of all nations. I have heard many spiritual leaders try to define what discipleship is, many times based on what fits with a program or based on only the teaching of the Word of God.

#### What is *Disciple Making*?

Spiritual parenting, the intentional and relational investment one makes for the spiritual welfare of another so that they can in turn be spiritually prepared to parent another. It is one follower of Christ leading other followers of Christ to imitate Christ who can lead others to imitate Christ.

**This body of believers wants to see fully devoted followers of Christ who are energized, equipped, and empowered to lead others to be fully devoted followers of Christ.**

*Illustration: What is the fruit of an apple tree? Is it an apple? No. It is an apple orchard. The fruit of a disciple is not another disciple, but disciple-makers. The fruit of a church is not more members; it is more churches. An apple can become an apple orchard because God has placed the potential for multiplication in its DNA. A church can become a network of churches when multiplication is in its DNA.*

Disciples can only give of who they are. What does a disciple have to give?

**1. Love for Christ-** *And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (Mark 8:34 ESV)*

A Christian is a "Christ One." Who we are is defined by whose we are. We have tasted and seen the goodness of our Lord. Because of His surpassing worth, we gladly cast off every other pursuit to walk in Him and for Him. *We put off self-centeredness and put on Christ-centeredness.*

*Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— (Philippians 3:8-9 ESV)*

*The evidence that you repented is that you keep on repenting, and turning from lesser affections.*

**2. Love for God's Word-** *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32 ESV)*

*Read Psalm 1:1-3; Psalm 119:10-11*

The disciple is rooted in God's truth, delights in the Word and sees the living and active Word of God as the final authority for and source of strength for our faith. *Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God! (Romans 10:17)*

**3. Love for God's Mission-** *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5 ESV)*

Our job is to abide in Christ, and if we do, the Holy Spirit will produce the fruit of the faithful life. We are commanded in 1 John 2:6 that the follower who says he abides must walk as Jesus walked. Obedient Christ-like lives are the work of the Spirit in the life of an abiding disciple.

**4. Love for God's People-** *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35 ESV)*

The greatest evidence of discipleship is love, regardless of circumstances or reciprocation of love offered. Love is an act of the will. The prayerful believer according to Ephesians 3:14-19 is rooted and grounded in love, living in community with other believers and together striving to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. We seek to be filled up with the fullness of God.

**5. Love for the Lost- Making disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).**

The disciple has been deeply impressed with the burden to see others transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The disciple recognizes the magnitude and consequence of lostness, under the condemnation of a holy and just God. There is an urgency to share our faith stories when we care about people and see them the way Christ sees them, as sheep without a shepherd.

*"Lord, send me anywhere, only go with me. Lay any burden on me, only sustain me. Sever any ties but the tie that binds me to your service and to your heart"-  
David Livingstone*

What is the cost of not following Christ? What cost is too great?

*Luke 14:25-33- Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them,<sup>26</sup> "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup> saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish. <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.*

What is the cost of following Christ from this passage?

If the Great Commission is the first pillar of disciple-making, likely **2 Timothy 2:2** is the second.

*2 Timothy 2:1-7- You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. <sup>3</sup> Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. <sup>5</sup> An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. <sup>6</sup> It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. <sup>7</sup> Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.*

### Why do we not do this?

1. Spiritual Weakness- "strengthened by the grace"

Prayerlessness- We do not have because we do not ask for God's riches of His glory for our time of need.

*Hebrews 4:16- Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. See also Colossians 1:9-11*

2. Spiritual deafness- "heard from me"

We are not students of God's Word. We cannot give what we do not have.

3. Opposition- "suffering"

We do not want to be inconvenienced. Paul is writing this letter from prison to his disciple. He was not in prison only because he believed. He was imprisoned because he shared.

4. Distractions- "entangled in civilian pursuits"

We are distracted by worldly pursuits or lesser ambitions. Our affections are drawn away from Christ and His mission. "time wasters and world tasters"

5. People Pleasing instead of Master Pleasing- "please the one who enlisted"

We do not understand how much the Great Commission pleases God.

6. Cutting Corners- "rules"

Discipleship is not a program. There are personal costs to investing in others. We cannot cut corners in personal investment and life on life relationships.

7. Laziness- "hard-working"

We never drift towards greater commitment to Christ. We must toil and work hard for that which is important. Time is a key element.

*2 Cor. 12:15- I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls.*

*Colossians 1:28-29- Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. <sup>29</sup> For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.*

How the Root RVA will do this? This body of believers wants to see fully devoted followers of Christ who are energized, equipped, and empowered to lead others to be fully devoted followers of Christ who lead others.

- Community Groups (3-5 families)- shaping lives with a commitment to love one another and grow in our love for one another
- Foundations (4-6 men or women in Gender based Discipleship)- shaping lives with a commitment to become a disciple-maker
- Prayer Group (Transparency/Accountability)- shaping lives with a commitment to gain the heart of Christ
- Missional Groups (Existing groups on mission together)- shaping lives with a commitment to reach the lost together
- Bible Study Groups- shaping lives with a commitment to hear and obey the Word of God together
- Relational Routines- shaping lives with a commitment to share your and to hear others' life story for the sake of applying the Gospel.