

## What are we trying to accomplish?



- I. The purpose of the Adult Discipleship MT is to multiply mature and equipped disciples of Jesus.
  - A. A disciple<sup>1</sup> is a follower of Jesus Christ, someone who is increasingly trusting in Him and living their life in response to his mercy and grace. In other words, knows how to Repent, Believe and Obey (G. Waltz).
  - B. A mature disciple is NOT:
    1. Spiritual maturity is not just having a lot of Bible knowledge. Although understanding the Bible is a significant factor that drives spiritual growth, simple head knowledge is not sufficient in itself. There is a difference between knowing and doing God's word.
    2. Spiritual maturity is not merely having high commitment. Commitment is an integral attribute of a spiritually mature life, but commitment doesn't equate to spiritual maturity.
    3. Spiritual maturity is not simply longevity, that is, how long a person has been a Christian. Although time is necessary to grow as a disciple, length of time as a Christian is not the indicator of spiritual maturity. Too many people have been Christians for decades but their spiritual growth plateaued shortly after becoming a Christian.
  - C. A mature disciple of Jesus Christ is one who has the demonstrated faith in the following areas:
    1. **Personal Relationship with God:**
      - a. Has a growing understanding of his/her unbelief AND a growing trust in Christ's forgiveness and righteousness that works out outwardly in service to others.
      - b. Regularly communes with and enacts God's will through private prayer.
      - c. Regularly studies the Word of God and rightly applies/connects it to life in grace motivated applications by identifying the indicative and imperatives forms of scripture (promise and obedience).
      - d. Knows what they believe and why they believe it. Has a firm grasp of the redemptive historical narrative of scripture and can elaborate how each major epoch of biblical history plays a role to the whole, even the present times.
    2. **Family Relationship:**
      - a. Is a responsible steward of time, relationships, and resources. Known for their generosity.
      - b. Models to their family members their commitment to obey and fulfill The Great Commission, to make disciples of all nations.
      - c. Is faithfully fulfilling his/her familial role with self-sacrifice, humility and love.
      - d. Practices a family worship routine at home.
      - e. Knows how to rely on the Holy Spirit to engage conflicts as a peace-maker.
    3. **Christian Relationships**
      - a. Is a faithful and consistent member of God's church in attendance and participation in serving in a ministry throughout the year.
      - b. Is involved in some form of discipleship group where they can utilize and develop their spiritual gifts and develop vulnerable/transparent relationships with them.
      - c. Sees, values and actively seeks out to nurture relationships with other Christians in fellowship throughout the week.
    4. **World Relationships.**
      - a. Fulfills their life calling and vocation considering God's kingdom and world mission.
      - b. Is socially responsible as a citizen of heaven living in America.
      - c. Lives a life of integrity in all spheres of influence.
      - d. Is loving others, especially "the least and the lost," and engaging them with the gospel.
      - e. Understands what it is to be *IN* the world but not *OF* the world. Not an "Us vs Them" but rather believes that the gospel calls us to be a "Us FOR Them" people.

---

<sup>1</sup> The following is adapted from materials presented by Randy Pope