

SERIES: Marks of a Healthy Church
Mark #6- “Discipleship and Growth”
Matthew 28:18-20; Colossians 1:28-29

“Before a church is a growing number of people, it is a number of people growing.”

Mark Dever

What is Discipleship?

- Scripture teaches that a live Christian is a **growing** Christian (2 Pet. 1:8-10).
- Scripture also teaches that we grow not only by instruction, but by **imitation** (1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1).
- Churches then should exhort their members to grow in **holiness** and help others do the same.

Where is it in the Bible?

- Peter exhorted his readers to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 3:18)
- Paul exhorted the Ephesians to grow by speaking the truth in **love** to one another (Eph. 4:15).
- Many passages in Scripture instruct us to imitate godly **leaders** (Phil. 4:9; Heb. 13:7).
- The point is that, according to Scripture, all Christians should grow in Christ, imitate other godly Christians, and encourage others in their growth in Christlikeness.

Why is it important?

- Promoting biblical discipleship and growth is important because none of us are finished products. Until we die, all Christians will struggle against sin, and we need all the help we can get in this fight.
- If a church neglects discipleship and growth, or teaches a skewed, unbiblical version of it, it will discourage genuine Christians and wrongly assure false Christians. On the other hand, if a church fosters a culture of Christian discipleship and growth, it will multiply believers' efforts to grow in holiness.
- A church that is not growing in the faith will ultimately yield an unhealthy witness to the world.

The Great Commission: Making Disciples God's Way (Matthew 28:18-20)

- Are we willing to **submit** to Jesus' authority? (v. 18)
 - To be **discipled**?
 - To be a **discipler**?
- Are we willing to **obey** God's plan? (v. 19)
 - **Who** are your men?
 - **How** are your men?
- Are we willing to **depend** on his presence? (v. 20)

Presenting Everyone Mature in Christ: How Do We Disciple Others? (Colossians 1:28-29)

- We **proclaim** Jesus now so that we may **present** mature disciples later.
- We work hard by **giving** ourselves to others.
- Discipleship must be **Spirit**-empowered.
- Discipling occurs in the present, but always has its eyes on the **Last** day.
 - We are investors. We invest in others with long-term thinking.
 - We are **farmers**. We sow the seed of God's word trusting him to make it grow in his timing.

Who would you like to see presented mature in Christ on the last day?

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