

# The Development of a Disciple of Jesus Christ

## *Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>*

Christianity is more than just believing the right things about Jesus.

“Believer” is found only twice in the entire bible. (Acts 5:14 and 1 Tim. 4:12)

The word for believer is *pisteuō*, meaning to have faith, credit, to COMMIT!

The word “Disciple” is found 273 times! It comes from *mathetes*, meaning a student, learner, Follower! (Mt 4:19; Jn 10:27. This comes from *manthano*, meaning to understand.

This understanding is at the root of repentance. Mt 4:17 *“Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand...”*

If repent (*metanoeo*) means to think differently, What was Jesus calling these religious people to “think differently” about? God? (John 4:24) Themselves? (John 3:3; 16; Ro. 3:10,23; 6:23)

The role of their religion? (Ro. 3:20; Gal. 2:16) Repentance is also at the root of discipleship!

Mt 4:19 *“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”* The word “Christian” (*christianos*) actually means “a follower of Christ.” Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16

Last week we discussed that Jesus defined his disciples as those who are willing to commit to:  
Following (obeying) him. *“Follow me...”* (see Luke 6:46; Jn 10:27)

Becoming changed by Him. *“I will make you”* (Ro. 12:2; 2 Cor 3:18; 2 Cor 5:17)

Partnering with Him and His purpose. *“Fishers of Men”* (See Lk 19:10; Acts 1:8)

Matthew 11 closes with 3 more clarifying commands to those who would seek to follow him:

28 *“Come unto me... and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me...and ye shall find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden light”*

After years of following and learning from Jesus, before ascending to heaven, he reiterates His Great Commission in John 20:21 *“...as my Father hath sent me, so send I you”*  
and in Matthew 28:18-20: 18 *“All power is given unto me in heaven and earth.*

*19 Go ye therefore and teach all nations”* (*mathēteuō*: from *mathētēs*: make disciples)

In this final “Great Commission” he summarized this process by describing what making disciples of Jesus Christ would actually involve?

Making disciples of Jesus Christ involves:

## 1. A Personal Invitation/Decision.

A. Our Part: *“Preach (share) the gospel”* Mk 16:15; Lk 24:46-48; Romans 10:13,14

B. God’s Part: Bring clarity and conviction.

1) Pay the price. Jn 3:16; 2 Cor 5:19-21 *“God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself..., and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 21 God made Him to be sin for us...!”*

2) Reveal the Path. Eph. 2:8; Mt 4:17; Lk 24:47; 2 Cor 4:6

C. Their Part:

1) Repentance Lk 13:3;5 *“Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish”* (Jn 8:24)

2) Faith (trust) Eph. 2:8 *“by grace...through faith”* (*pistis*: trust, reliance; From *peitho*: persuaded)  
See Romans 5:1; 10:8-11; Ephesians 1:12,13 *“That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, (from whom?) the gospel of your salvation: (through whom?) in whom also after that ye believed, (pisteuo: committed) ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise”*

## 2. A Practical Identification. Mt 28:19

### A. Baptism is an act of identification. *“baptizing them in ...he Father, Son, Holy Ghost”*

From Greek baptizo meaning to immerse, submerge. From bapto meaning to dip and/or dye.

The Greek words ranthizo (sprinkle) or ekcheo (pour) are never used of baptism. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pt 1:21)

- 1) Biblical Baptism identifies us with Jesus. Ro 6:3,4 *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*
- 2) Biblical Baptism identifies us with each other! His Body (1 Cor 12:27) and Bride (Eph 5:32)  
Acts 2:41 *“they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers...47 ...and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved”*

### B. Responsibilities:

- 1) Our (the disciple-er's) Part. Mt 28:19 *“Teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you.”*  
Eph. 4:14, 15 *“That we no more be children...carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of men... But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:”*
- 2) God's Part:
  - a) Convict us. Phil. 2:13 *“It is God which worketh in you both to will, and to do of His good pleasure”*
  - b) Conform us (Make us part of His church) 1Cor 12:13 *“By one Spirit we're all baptized into one body...27 “Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”*
- 3) Their (the believer's) Part. Obey! Mt 3:15 *“suffer (yield) it...to fulfil all righteousness”*  
1 Peter 3:21 describes biblical baptism as: *“the answer of a good conscience toward God, “*

### Conclusion: The Example of Philip and the Ethiopian

- 1) Philip's part: a) Obeys God's directions. 26-29 b) Askes probing questions. 30  
c) Shares the gospel vs 32-35 d) Baptizes Him. Vs 38
- 2) The Ethiopian's Part: He obeyed the light God had given him.
  - a) Trying to worship God. 27 b) Reading the Bible. 28 c) Admitted his need for help. 31
  - d) Asked honest questions. 34 e) Responded to the truth (36,37) f) Was baptized. (38)And so the Church in Ethiopia was born!
- 3) God Part: He Orchestrated the whole thing! Phil. 2:13

Ethiopian's Hungry heart. Directed him to Jerusalem. Moved him to buy the OT scroll.  
Reading Isaiah 53! Directed Philip at the right time.

### What if Philip wasn't willing to be inconvenienced?

Making disciples of involves: A Personal Invitation/Decision. Mt 28:19;  
A Practical Identification. Mt 28:19; and A Relational / intentional Education.  
Mt. 28:20 *“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”*

**Application:** God is at work in the heart and life of someone  
in your life and future. Can He trust you to do your part? 1 Peter 3:15  
Are you Ready? Are you Able? Are you Willing?