

Be a Disciple, Make a Disciple

Bethany Church Mission

March 11, 2018

1. Bethany Church mission:

- a. Make disciples: *practice and teach the commandments of Jesus*
- b. As we make disciples:
 - i. Train and trust leaders: *empower faithful servants to fulfill their calling*
 - ii. Plant churches: *support and multiply new communities of believers*

Eight Traits of a Mature Disciple

A disciple...

1. Has counted the cost and put Jesus exceedingly above everyone and everything
 - a. Luke 14:25–33 - ²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “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. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ 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? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ 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? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.
2. Denies self, takes up cross, and follows Jesus
 - a. Mt. 16:24 “Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” NIV
3. Bears *much* fruit
 - a. John 15:8 “By this my Father is glorified, that you bear *much* fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” ESV
 - b. NLT: “When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.”
4. Loves other disciples of Jesus. People knew who followed Jesus because they could physically see them following Jesus. Jesus said:
 - a. John 13:33–35 - “Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can’t come where I am going. ³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you

should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” NLT

5. Baptizes and teaches others to obey – Mt. 28:19–20
 - a. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.”
6. Remains faithful to Jesus’ teachings – John 8:31–32
 - a. Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. ³² And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
 - b. If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples (ESV)
 - c. If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples. (Holman Christian Standard)
7. Fishes for more disciples
 - a. “Follow Me,” He told them, “and I will make you fish for people! (Mt. 4:19 HCSB)
 - b. “Go and make disciples of all nations.” (Mt 28:19, HCSB)
8. Reaches out to the little ones or the least of these
 - a. “And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.” Mt. 10:42 ESV

Objective:

- b. Be a learner, be a student, be a follower of Jesus – and the Holy Spirit inside us will motivate and empower us to do these and more. As we are with Jesus, we become more and more like him.

What is our response as a church? What does the mission statement look like?

1. For 2018-2020:

- Make disciples: practice and teach the commandments of Jesus
 - Be a disciple (learner).
 - Everyone allows themselves to be influenced by Jesus and those he puts in our lives.
 - The Holy Spirit will help us in all eight areas I mentioned, and more. You can ask knowing that he will give these to you because he wants them for you as Jesus’ disciple.
 - Make a disciple:
 - Everyone reaches out to someone intentionally.
 - Help others follow Jesus – at Bethany Church that will manifest with the language of “make disciples, train and trust leaders, and plant churches.”
 - Let one of those be someone who doesn’t follow Jesus yet
- **As we are disciples and make disciples:**

- Train and trust leaders: *empower faithful servants to fulfill their calling*
- Plant churches: *support and multiply new communities of believers*
 - Give regularly to the church through tithes and offerings – missions team will begin to highlight the international church planting efforts we support
 - We are looking at how we can plant a church locally – more info later

Three measurable outcomes we are looking at as an oversight team:

- Regular attendees can articulate the mission statement and how it applies to them individually inside and outside the church building.
- Every ministry team knows their role to fulfill the mission, engages in specific activities to support the mission, and encourages their volunteers and the church at large to be a part as applicable.
- Bethany Church retains current people plus an average of 8 new people yearly who are called to be a part of Bethany.

If we focus on

- **being a disciple of Jesus and**
- **making disciples — will accomplish these things.**