



September 24, 2019

feeding...gathering...carrying...leading. (Isiah 40:11)

Discipleship Sermon COSC, Part 1

Pastoral Letter Sermon Outline

Matthew 28:19-20 New International Version (NIV)

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

How's this Christianity thing working in our Christian Country?

Jesus said go into all the nations and make disciples. We've made this nation a Christian nation not a nation of disciples.

70% of all Americans are Christians.

* Yet we have racially provoked mass murders.

1 Corinthians 3:1 Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ.

91% Of the Congress are Christians...

John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

If our congressional representatives were disciples they would serve each other by love

CHRISTIAN OR DISCIPLE: Which is it?

Matt 28:19, Jesus said, "Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations."

Jesus did not tell us to go make Christians He said go make disciples.

1. The word Christian is only found 3 times in scriptures but disciple or disciples is found 244 times. On each occasion when Christian is used it was not the disciples calling themselves Christians.

◆ **Acts 11:26**..."Christians first at Antioch" They were called Christians. It is not disciples referring to themselves as Christians.

◆ **Acts 26:28** Almost you persuades me to be (one of those) Christians.

◆ **1 Peter 4:16** (NIV) 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. (If someone criticizes you for being a Christian take the criticism. You could be called worse things.) read 14-16

Christian was literally a nickname! given to the believers by the populace of that day.

It was much like using the "N" word, or Holy roller, hill-billy, red neck, Boozy Negro, momma's boy, Booboo, Squirrel,

The usage of the term Christian was a derisive pejorative term with a demeaning derogatory connotation which expressed a low opinion of someone...

It's almost the way people use it today. "Oh, you're one of those Christians."

2. Aren't we taught to never allow someone to "call us out of our name?"

* When you call me a Christian your calling me out of my name because that's not who I am, I'm a believer trying to become a disciple.

3. The disciples/believers never referred to themselves as Christians it was only the outsiders, the populace who called them Christians.

* **Acts 11:26** *and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.*

* **Acts 6:7** *So the word of God spread. The number of **disciples** in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.*

* **Acts 9:26** *When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the **disciples**, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a **disciple**.*

* **Acts 9:36** *In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor.*

4. Jesus never referred to the disciples Christians

John 13:34-34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

A DISCIPLE IS NOT A CHRISTAIN

1. Christian is not defined in the Scriptures because it was never intended for us to be one.

*Christianity is a statement of what Christ has done for you. Discipleship is a statement about what we've done for Christ.

THE GOAL OF BECOMING A DISCIPLE

1. The disciples were not disciplined for the benefit of themselves but to make others disciples.

** It's not about you.

All the classes, Home groups studies, weekly Quads, Women's Bible Studies, Men's meetings, retreats...are designed help you become it's not about you. It's so you will know how to catch fish and have some bate to put on your hook. Catching fish is what disciples do.

2. COSC members are unashamedly some of the spiritually mature congregants in the DMV. Now lets channel all that knowledge "to bear fruit"

* "Follow me and you will become fishers of men..."

The disciples were chosen "to become." Likewise you were saved to "become" but how long have you been "Becoming"

* A professional fishermen catches fish for others to eat not for himself.

3. A disciple is a disciple, that makes a disciple that makes a disciple that makes...

2 Tim 2:2, *The things you have heard me say the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also.*

Four generations of Disciple-Making. Paul taught

- 1) Timothy,
- 2) Timothy teaches
- 3) Faithful men who shall teach
- 4) Others also.

4. Who's your downline...up-line?

Most of us know who are Up-line iis, the person who introduced you to Christ.

But the question is who have you introduced to Christ, they are your downline

The answer to that question determines if you are merely a Christian or a Disciple

◆ Your children should be the first in your "Downline". But don't stop there.

Pastor T.L.