

Making Disciples Pursuing All Jesus Commanded With All of Ourselves

What is discipleship?

A disciple is someone who **loves, follows, and serves** Jesus. **Therefore, discipleship is helping people love, follow, and serve Jesus, with all of themselves.** Discipleship is the act of obeying Jesus' Great Commission to multiply His Kingdom by making disciples and helping them to observe all that He has commanded us (Matthew 28:18-20). But for us to properly practice discipleship, it is likely that we need to break some preconceived paradigms we each carry with us. Let's do that!

Discipleship is both **personal** (one-on-one, accountability groups, etc.) and **corporate** (Sunday gatherings, Bible studies, ministries, etc.). We often lean heavily into one form or the other, but the beauty of discipleship and the goal of a follower of Christ should be to receive and give **personally** and **corporately** so that we all grow holistically. Discipleship and being a disciple is a fully integrated process (see Fig. 1). We need individuals and the whole body if we're to grow into the full image of Christ. So, is discipleship a 1:1 at a coffee shop? Yes, it can be. Is it more than that? Yes, so much more!

Everything that helps someone better love, serve, and follow Jesus is a part of discipleship. As discipleship happens **personally** and **corporately**, Jesus expects each of us to play a part!

But how? We're often intimidated by the idea of discipleship and tend to over-complicate it. After all, Jesus said, "teaching people to obey all that He commanded." There are 1,050 commands given to us in the New Testament!

That is a lot for someone to follow or help teach to others. But Jesus didn't intend for it to be complicated or for us to have perfect wisdom. He expects discipleship to be a process that each of us are constantly involved with and growing in. Additionally, He gave us a framework by which to "test" how we're loving, following, and serving Jesus, so we

don't fall victim to the task of discipleship at the expense of our love and devotion.

This "test" is making sure that in every aspect of our life we **love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength** (Mark 12:30). (Great Commandment Framework at thewell.cm/gcf). Don't get lost on us! Once we see this framework of viewing discipleship, it will feel simple and hard to unsee.

See Fig. 2 below for a tool that depicts both discipleship (the Great Commission) and this Great Commandment "framework". As you learn to **love, follow, and serve Jesus**, in every area of your life, with all of yourself, you see Christ more clearly. A disciple's frame expands as they experience **personal** and **corporate** discipleship and learn to apply various commands with all their **heart, soul, mind, strength**. They should then help others to do the same.

Once we learn how to take every command and filter it through this frame, seeking to be disciplined through **personal** and **corporate** avenues, we begin to become fully formed

followers of Jesus. Once we help others apply this, we're practicing discipleship! For example, in reflection on your workplace: "are you loving, following, and serving Jesus in your workplace (i.e. working as unto the Lord, trying to share the Gospel, cultivating the earth, etc.)? Are you doing it with your heart, soul, mind, and strength?" For reflection with someone you are discipling this could be applied as: "What command of Christ does _____ need to grow in? How can I help?" We can then do this **personally**, in life-on-life relationships, and **corporately**, helping to lead ministries or pushing people towards corporate forms of discipleship such as attending a class or listening to a particular sermon.

The more we can apply this framework of discipleship to the various commands of Christ, the more our frames will grow. But, we all need to do this together if discipleship is to happen personally and corporately. Meaning, you're important! Each of us is needed to make the body whole. You're more capable of making disciples than you realize.

So, go therefore!

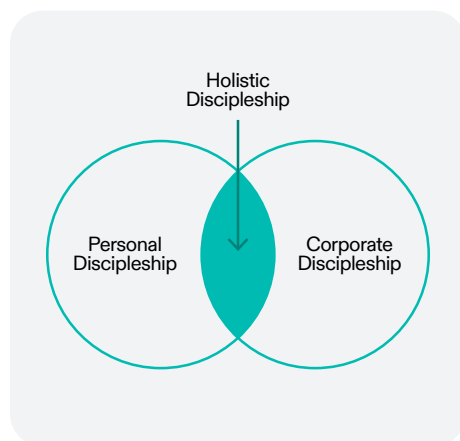


Fig. 1 Discipleship Diagram

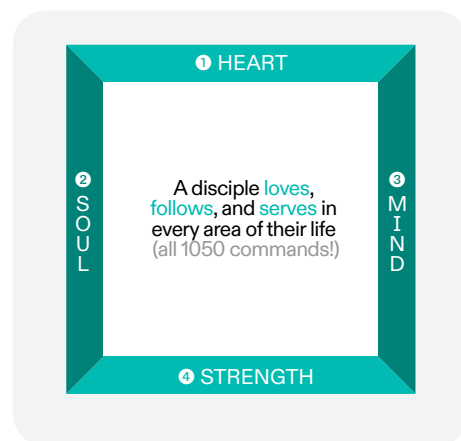


Fig. 2 Discipleship Framework

Making Disciples

Applying the Framework to Prayer

Prayer

Prayer is one of the commands of Christ. So, the baseline question for a disciple should be: Are you praying? That is the first level of accountability, but the Bible gives us many commands that go with prayer and how we ought to pray.

For example: Are you bringing your requests to God with thanksgiving (Phil. 4:6)? Are you praying as Jesus modeled for us in the Lord's prayer (Matt. 6:9-13)? There are perhaps dozens of ways we should pray and things we should pray for.

Additionally, to grow deeper in our prayer life, the Great Commandment should be applied to make sure we are not just growing in what we do, but also in how we do it and why. This is where as a disciple/discipler we should be testing areas of our lives through the lens

of our **heart, soul, mind, and strength**. (See discipleship framework below for an example).

Within something like prayer, each of us can grow by following the Great Commission to pray as Jesus called us to and the Great Commandment by praying with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. The beauty of this tool is that whether you are a veteran or rookie at prayer, you can still help others and receive help from others as you grow. You can "filter" prayer through your framework and ask, "Are there areas of my prayer life where I need to better love, serve, or follow Jesus?", while also asking, "Are there areas of my heart, soul, mind, or strength that I need to grow in with prayer?"

There are personal and corporate aspects to each command. Continuing the example of prayer, **personal** one-on-one discipleship

could look like you and a mentor/mentee praying together more regularly, reading a book on prayer, holding each other accountable to consistent prayer, etc.

Corporate discipleship can look like praying in your Community Group, hearing other saints pray to fuel your prayer life, praying for things in a corporate gathering you wouldn't normally pray, listening to a sermon on prayer, etc. Therefore, as a disciple, to learn how to pray from both individuals and the corporate body is important for us to grow in our prayer life.

As a disciple-maker, to help others learn how to pray and to aid the whole body in prayer is an important part of making disciples. The **personal** and **corporate** aspects of discipleship are both essential for every command of Christ as we seek to **love, follow, and serve Him!**

Example Application Questions

1 Heart

Is your heart alive and activated during prayer? Do you feel joyful in prayer?

2 Soul

Do you believe in prayer and its effectiveness?

3 Mind

Are you engaging thought and reason as you pray, remembering who you're talking to when you pray?

4 Strength

Are you disciplined in your prayer life? Do you pray?

