

---

# DISCIPLING – PART 1

---

## Overview:

One of our primary goals in the Christian life is to see people brought to Christ; then we want to help them reach a level of maturity (Matthew 28:18). As mature Christians, the people we help disciple should also become disciple-makers, and the resulting impact will be greater than if we had focused solely on evangelism.

## Outline:

### I. Problem: Increasing Social Isolation

- A. The general population is disengaging from clubs, civic associations, and local churches. Robert Putnam (Bowling Alone)
- B. It is common to see family members texting friends while ignoring each other at meals. Sherry Turkle (Alone Together)
- C. In 1950, 10% of Americans lived alone. In 2012, 28% of Americans live alone. Eric Klinenberg (Going Solo)
- D. The problem is “not out there.” Social isolation is a problem in the church as well.
  - 1. “Most Believers Say They Don’t Need Others for Discipleship survey results find.” Question: “*I intentionally spend time with other believers in order to help them grow in their faith.*” 19% strong agree, 28% somewhat agree, 34% neither agree nor disagree, 13% somewhat disagree, 6% strongly disagree. (LifeWay Research surveyed 2,500 Protestant churchgoers in January, 2019.)

### II. Discipleship Defined

- A. A disciple is a follower, student, and learner of Jesus Christ.
- B. Following Jesus starts with entering into a personal, saving relationship with him. In other words, discipleship starts not with something we do, but with what Christ did for us! And then Christ asks us to follow him. (Mark 8:34)
- C. Discipleship: Helping others follow Jesus. We must understand that being a disciple

and making disciples is costly! (Mark 8:34)

### III. Engine of Discipleship

- A. Love! First, God loved us, then we love God, and then we in turn love others. (Mark 12:28)
- B. If you say you love God, but you don’t love your brother or sister; it is a lie! (1 John 4:19)

### IV. Evidence of Discipleship

- A. Obedience! We show our love for Christ isn’t just lip service through our obedience. (John 14:15)
- B. A key part of obeying the Lord is laboring to make disciples. Jesus wants more disciple makers! (Matthew 9:35)
- C. If you have ever thought, “I can’t disciple others until I am mature.” Understand that one of the main ways you grow in the faith is helping others grow in maturity. (Isaiah 58:10)

### V. Location of Discipleship

- A. We are called to make disciples through the local church. Throughout the New Testament, once the gospel entered a new region, a local church took root there! Discipleship must be expressed and lived out through the local church!

---

# DISCIPLING – PART 1

---

## Supporting Material:

### Verses:

**Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**Mark 8:34** 34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and **follow me**. 35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?”

“Follow me” also in Matthew 4:19, 8:22, 9:9, 10:38, 16:24, 19:21, Mark 1:17, 2:14, 8:34, 10:21, Luke 5:27, 9:23, 9:59, 18:22, John 1:43, 8:12, 10:27, 12:26, 21:19, 21:22)

**Mark 12:28** And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” 29 Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.”

**1 John 4:19** We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

**John 14:15** “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ...”

**Matthew 9:35** And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” 10:1 And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. ... 5 These twelve Jesus sent out, ...

**Isaiah 58:10** If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. 11 And the Lord

will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

### Quotes:

Christianity is not for loners or individualists. It is for people traveling together down the narrow path that leads to life. You must follow and you must lead. You must be loved and you must love.  
- Mark Dever

To die to self means to consider it better to die than to lust; to consider it better to die than to tell a falsehood; to consider it better to die than to [fill-in-the-blank].  
– Don Carson

We might not be his disciples if we are not laboring to make disciples.  
– Mark Dever

It is very easy to build churches in which seekers congregate; it is very hard to build churches in which biblical faith is maturing into genuine discipleship.  
- David Wells

### References:

- Discipling - Mark Dever
- The Lost Art of Disciple Making - Leroy Eims
- The Cost of Discipleship - Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Multiply - Francis Chan
- True Discipleship - William MacDonald