

**Disciple: The Goal of Discipling**  
Colossians 1:28-29

**3 Characteristics of Every-Member Discipleship**

- We keep an eye to the glory of God.

- Paul has eternity in mind.

*The work of discipling occurs in the present, but it has its eyes set on the Last Day. (Mark Dever)*

*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:25-27)*

- Paul has everyone in mind.

*For you know how, like a father with his children, <sup>12</sup> we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12)*

*I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:20-21)*

*All the truth of God is for all the people of God. (F.F. Bruce)*

*I am occupied in my small way, as Mr. Great-heart was employed in Bunyan's day. I do not compare myself with that champion, but I am in the same line of business. I am engaged in personally-conducted tours to Heaven.... It is my business, as best I can, to kill dragons, and cut off giants' heads, and lead on the timid and trembling. I am often afraid of losing some of the weaklings. I have the heart-ache for them; but, by God's grace, and your kind and generous help in looking after one another, I hope we shall all travel safely to the river's edge. Oh, how many have I had to part with there! I have stood on the brink, and I have heard them singing in the midst of the stream, and I have almost seen the shining ones lead them up the hill, and through the gates, into the Celestial City. (Charles Spurgeon)*

- We rely upon the gospel of God.

- By proclaiming Christ.

*The best thing I can say about time spent in a church where you're not normally hearing God's Word is that you're wasting your time. That's because pastors teaching the Word is the core of a church's discipling ministry. It*

*provides food and water that feeds all the other discipling relationships within the church.... Find a church where God's Word will be taught to you—for your soul's sake and for the sake of you helping others. (Mark Dever)*

- By warning of and teaching about Christ.

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16)*

*I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. (Romans 15:14)*

*What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. (1 Corinthians 14:26)*

*Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ. (Ephesians 4:15)*

*Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:18)*

*The one who loves you the most is the one who tells you the most truth about yourself. (Robert Murray M'Cheyne)*

*And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. (1 Thessalonians 5:14)*

*It would be a good contest amongst Christians, one to labor to give no offence, and the other to labor to take none. The best men are severe to themselves, tender over others. (Richard Sibbes)*

- We find our supply in the power of God.
  - We should work hard to make disciples.

*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)*

- We should trust God as we make disciples.

*But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. (1 Corinthians 15:10)*