**Disciples of Christ**

**Christ-centered Disciples**

Edmund Chan, 9/3/2021

Disciplemaking re-imagined begins with reverse engineering.

We don’t merely start with a program. We don’t just start with finding a few to “disciple”. We don’t even start with ourselves. Rather, we start with the Person of CHRIST!

We must return to being Christ-centered in our discipleship.

Be a CHRIST-CENTERED DISCIPLE! Here are five defining marks -

1. BE A DISCIPLE WHO KNOWS CHRIST

Paul’s captivating passion is articulated in a singular quest – “That I might KNOW HIM!” (Phil 3:10).

He employs the word ‘*ginosko*’ to emphasize his passion to REALLY KNOW CHRIST – not merely cognitively but experientially and deeply. Sure, the godly apostle has other passions. He’s passionate about the spiritual well-being of the church. He’s passionate about the salvation of both Jews and Gentiles. He’s passionate about the missional cause of Christ. But these are all secondary to and flows out of, his compelling passion TO KNOW CHRIST!

2. BE A DISCIPLE WHO LOVES CHRIST

Many know John 3:16. But do you know 1John 3:16?

It says, “This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us…”.

Both John 3:16 and 1John 3:16 paint a profound picture of divine love that is worth more than a zillion words – “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son…” and “He laid down His life for us…”!

The fact that God loves us is undeniably true. Just look at the Cross! As such, John referred to himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved” – not as a bragging right but rather, as a grateful recipient of redeeming love!

The question is, do we love Christ who loves us and died for us? For to know Christ is to love Him. And we love Him because He first loved us (1John 4:19).

There is ONE question that Jesus asked Peter THREE times (John 21:15-17); and it is the chief question Jesus would ask of us: “Do you LOVE ME more than these?” (John 21:15). Be a disciple who loves Christ!

3. BE A DISCIPLE WHO OBEYS CHRIST

Just as KNOWING JESUS has a depth of experiential meaning in existential reality, likewise LOVING JESUS is qualified quite distinctly. Jesus Himself points out that the litmus test of our Love for Him is our Obedience unto Him.

In John 14:21, Jesus said: “If you love me, keep My commandments”. Love is an action word. Love is not a passive sentimentality.

As I grow older, I am increasingly convicted by the reminder that while many serve Christ, few OBEY HIM!

Be a disciple who serve the Lord ON HIS TERMS - in a walk of dynamic faith and devoted obedience!

4. BE A DISCIPLE WHO ABIDES IN CHRIST

“Abide in Me” is the cardinal principle of the spiritual life.

In John 15:4-5, Jesus said “Abide in Me” three times: “ABIDE IN ME, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you ABIDE IN ME. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who ABIDES IN ME, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

Christlikeness is both the goal of discipleship and the defining mark of spiritual maturity. Yes, to be like Him, and to be fruitful in Him, we must be disciples who abide in Him!

5. BE A DISCIPLE WHO PROCLAIMS CHRIST

Proclaiming Christ cannot be divorced from discipleship!

In Colossians 1:28, Paul declares his mission thus: “WE PROCLAIM HIM, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.”

Paul is enthusiastic about Christ! He made Christ his magnificent obsession and the cause of Christ, his compelling mission.

But how are we to do that? We learn to be \*PDA Christians \*– \_we walk in Personal revival, Divine appointments, and Active obedience. \_

Indeed, it comes a full cycle. Know Him. Love Him. Obey Him. Abide in Him. Proclaim Him.

It’s NOT a mere program. It’s a magnificent relationship!

And once we tap into that relationship as a disciple of Christ, we are called to make disciples! It's not a suggestion. It's not an option. It's a command!

But how do we MAKE DISCIPLES? More about that in the next TFYD!

Have a blessed weekend ahead.