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FCS1-3-04: Introduction to Discipleship

The Body of Christ has a vital part within itself that God established to provide spiritual knowledge with-all; it is an inner-working of the gifts and offices of the Pastors and the Teachers. The ministry with new believers is what we refer to as the process of discipleship.

Applying the Disciplines of the Doctrine of Christ

The doctrine of Jesus Christ was astonishing and fulfilling (Matthew 7:28, Mark 5:42, Luke 4:32, Luke 4:16-22). Because He was the 'Word made flesh' (John 1:14), and the words that Jesus spoke were of the father that dwelt within him (John 14:8-10), He had exceeding understanding and wisdom of the scriptures even at twelve years age (Luke 2:45-48).

The doctrine of Christ is the basic faith as taught by Christ and that was established by His Apostles.

Hebrews 6:1-2 Therefore leaving **the principles of the doctrine of Christ**, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the **foundation of repentance from dead works**, and of **faith toward God**, 2 Of the **doctrine of baptisms**, and of **laying on of hands**, and of **resurrection of the dead**, and of **eternal judgment**.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you **the gospel** which **I preached unto you**, which also **ye have received**, and **wherein ye stand**; 2 By which also **ye are saved**, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

1 Corinthians 9:14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which **preach the gospel** should **live of the gospel**.

2 Timothy 2:15 **Study to shew thyself approved unto God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing** the word of truth.

Discipleship is the process of applying these principles (disciplines) of the doctrine of Christ to a student of the Gospel. Every soul should be a disciple of Christ; every person should likewise live of this Gospel message.

Disciple: (Greek 3101 – *Matthew 5:1*) mathetes math-ay-tes' from 3129; a **learner**, i.e. **pupil**--**disciple**.

Matthew 5:1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, came unto him:

Disciple: (*Merriam-Webster.com*) one who **accepts and assists** in spreading **the doctrines** of another.

Discipline: (*Merriam-Wester.com roots and meanings of Discipline*) Discipline comes from *discipulus*, the Latin word for **pupil**, which also provided the source of the word *disciple* (albeit by way of a Late Latin sense-shift to "a follower of Jesus Christ in his lifetime"). Given that several meanings of *discipline* deal with **study**, **governing one's behavior**, and **instruction**, one might assume that the word's first meaning in English had to do with **education**.

There is an office in the Jewish faith referred to in the scriptures as Master. This Master is a leader in scriptural interpretation and application.



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The Master / Mentor / Teacher Relationship

Master: (Greek 1320 – *John 13:13*) didaskalos did-as'-kal-os from 1321; an **instructor** (genitive case or specially):--**doctor, master, teacher.**

John 13:13-17 **Ye call me Master** and Lord: and ye say well; **for so I am.** 14 If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. 16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **The servant is not greater than his lord;** neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. 17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Luke 6:40 **The disciple is not above his master:** but every one that is perfect shall be as his master

Master: (Merriam-Webster.com) 1b) A revered religious leader. 2a) One having authority over another.

Mentor: (Merriam-Webster.com) 2a) A trusted counselor or guide.

Mentee: (Merriam-Webster.com) One who is being mentored: a protégé.

Biblical examples of Mentor and Disciple Relationships

There are a few examples of the Mentor (Master) and Student (protégé) we shall quickly review: Moses and Joshua, Elijah and Elisha, Jesus and His Disciples, Gamaliel and Saul, and Paul with Timothy.

Moses and Joshua:

Moses has a minister under him that was taught and prepared to carry-on after the death of Moses.

Deuteronomy 34:9 And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for **Moses had laid his hands upon him:** and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses.

Elijah and Elisha:

Elijah was the master over the children of the prophets. Most notable was his successor Elisha as Elisha 'took over the mantle' of Elijah.

2 Kings 2:1-15 And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that **Elijah went with Elisha** from Gilgal. 2 And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Beth-el. And Elisha said *unto him*, **As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee.** So they went down to Beth-el. 3 And the sons of the prophets that *were* at Beth-el came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know *it*; hold ye your peace. 4 And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, *As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee.* So they came to Jericho. 5 And the sons of the prophets that *were* at Jericho came to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he answered, Yea, I know *it*; hold ye your peace. 6 And Elijah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the LORD hath sent me

to Jordan. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and *as* thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on. 7 **And fifty men of the sons of the prophets** went, and stood to view afar off: and they two stood by Jordan. 8 And Elijah took his **mantle**, and wrapped *it* together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground. 9 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, **let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me**. 10 And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: *nevertheless*, if thou see me *when I am* taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be *so*. 11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, *there appeared* a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 12 And Elisha saw *it*, and he cried, **My father, my father**, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. 13 He took up also **the mantle of Elijah** that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; 14 And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where *is* the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over. 15 And when the sons of the prophets which *were* to view at Jericho saw him, they said, **The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha**. And they came to meet him, and **bowed themselves to the ground before him**.

Jesus and His Disciples:

Many times Jesus would teach openly in parables and later expound them to His disciples while they were alone with Him later.

Matthew 13:10-11 And the **disciples came, and said unto him**, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 11 He answered and said unto them, Because **it is given unto you** to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

There were also meaningful explanations Jesus gave to the questions from His disciples.

Mark 9:28-29 And when he was come into the house, **his disciples asked him privately**, Why could not we cast him out? 29 And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

Gamaliel and Saul:

Saul (later called Paul after his conversion) was a disciple of Moses under [master] Gamaliel.

Acts 5:34 Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named **Gamaliel, a doctor of the law**, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space;

Acts 22:3 I am verily a man *which am* a Jew, born in Tarsus, *a city in Cilicia*, yet brought up in this city **at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught**

according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

The phrase at '[the feet of](#)' symbolizes the relationship of the disciple with their mentor (master).

Paul and Timothy:

Paul was the master and Timotheus was the protégé; this time Paul was the master of the doctrine of Christ and Timothy (Timotheus) was the one being taught. It is noteworthy that Timothy also was a teacher and Elder that helped to established sound doctrine in the churches. The most effective protégés are the ones that grow unto being mentors also themselves.

Philippians 2:19-22 But I trust in the Lord Jesus **to send** Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. 20 For **I have** no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. 22 But ye know the proof of him, that, **as a son with the father**, he hath **served with me in the gospel**.

1 Timothy 1:1-7 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, *which is* our hope; 2 **Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith:** Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. 3 As **I besought thee** to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, **that thou mightest charge** some that **they teach no other doctrine**, 4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: *so do*. 5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and *of* a good conscience, and *of* faith unfeigned: 6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; 7 **Desiring to be teachers** of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

2 Timothy 1:1-7 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, 2 **To Timothy, my dearly beloved son:** Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3 I thank God, whom I serve from *my* forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; 4 Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; 5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also. 6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance **that thou** stir up the gift of God, **which is in thee by the putting on of my hands**. 7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of **power**, and of **love**, and of a **sound mind**.

The Elder Relationship

In smaller assemblies and congregations, most (if not all) mentoring is accomplished by the Elders themselves. These elders are said to be apt to teach. The duty of the Elder is to tend and



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provide the spiritual necessities for each of those under their shepherding. This includes the teaching of the disciples and the growth of their Biblical knowledge.

Elders: (Greek 4245 – *1 Peter 5:1*) presbuteros pres-boo'-ter-os comparative of presbus (elderly); older; as noun, **a senior**; specially, an **Israelite Sanhedrist** (also figuratively, **member of the celestial council**) or Christian "**presbyter**":-- **elder(-est)**, old.

The title of Elder is interchangeable with pastor, overseer, and bishop in the New Testament.

Pastor: (Greek 4166 – *Ephesians 4:11*) poimen poy-mane' of uncertain affinity; a shepherd (literally or figuratively):--**shepherd, pastor**.

Overseers: (Greek 1985 – *Acts 20:28*) episkopos ep-is'-kop-os from 1909 and 4649 (in the sense of 1983); a superintendent, i.e. **Christian officer in genitive case charge of a (or the) church** (literally or figuratively):--**bishop, overseer**.

Bishop: (Greek 1984 – *1 Timothy 3:1*) episkope ep-is-kop-ay' from 1980; **inspection** (for relief); by implication, **superintendence**; specially, **the Christian "episcopate"**:--the office of a "bishop", bishoprick, visitation.

Bishops: (Greek 1985 – *Philippians 1:1*) same as Overseers (above).

When a congregation becomes large enough, the elders can be great leaders and examples and (in effect) become the bottle-neck that chokes the future growth of that assembly. Just as in the case of Moses, the leader has limitations of their own selves. This is partly the reason that God gave teachers to the church.

Teacher: (Greek 1320 – *Ephesians 4:11*) didaskalos did-as'-kal-os from 1321; an **instructor** (genitive case or specially):--doctor, **master, teacher**.

Ephesians 4:11-16 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, **pastors and teachers**; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

The disciplines of Christ are instilled by the Holy Ghost (Comforter, Spirit of Truth) through prayer, study of God's Word, a pattern of good works, and instruction (edification) from church leaders.

To become a person that desires to follow Christ and allow Him to change and direct their life, is to become a disciple of Christ; seeking to observe all things that Christ has commanded. Many parishioners come to their respective congregations for worship every week. Yet, to be a disciple of Christ, one must commit more than time; one must commit their entire life and all that is contained within it.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and **teach** all nations, baptizing them



in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 **Teaching** them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

John 14:20-27 At that day ye shall know that I *am* in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. 21 He that **hath my commandments, and keepeth them**, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. 22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, **he will keep my words**: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. 24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. 25 These things have I spoken unto you, being *yet* present with you. 26 But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things**, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. 27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Titus 2:7-8 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: **in doctrine** *shewing* uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, 8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

1 Peter 2:1-5 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2 **As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word**, that ye **may grow thereby**: 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious. 4 To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious, 5 Ye also, as lively stones, are **built up** a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 5:1-8 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 **Feed** the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but **being ensamples** to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. 5 Likewise, ye younger, **submit yourselves unto the elder**. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Becoming a Disciple of Jesus Christ

There is a certain journey a person (soul) must proceed through to becoming a disciple of Christ. First, is the recognition that they are spiritually lost without Christ. After repentance and application of Christ into their life by water baptism they enter into the Body of Christ. Once entered into the Body of Christ, this person continues to grow in Him as His disciple within the framework of the ministry that He has provided for them.



The Lost: (those not yet in the Body of Christ): (Greek 0622 – 2 Corinthians 4:3) apollumi ap-ol'-loo-mee from 575 and the base of 3639; to destroy fully (reflexively, **to perish**, or lose), literally or figuratively:--**destroy, die**, lose, mar, perish.

2 Corinthians 4:1-4 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; 2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3 **But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:** 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

** A person that is trapped in sin and it's penalty. A person not yet made free from sin in Christ. A person in desperate need of Christ (everyone outside of Christ).*

Parishioner: *Within Christian Fellowship Church Ministries International, a parishioner is a person that faithfully attends the congregational assembly (parish).*

** A parishioner may, or may not yet, be a disciple of Christ. There are certain people that may attend an assembly that have not yet fully committed their hearts and life to Christ. As such, they are positioned to hear the preaching and teaching of the Word of God. This hearing of the Word should lead to their salvation and their journey towards discipleship in Christ.*

To become a disciple of Christ, a person must repent of there sins and put on Christ in water baptism. This is the first step in the journey of discipleship that places a person into the Body of Christ as a new believer.

The New Believers (babe in Christ): (Greek 3516 – Hebrews 5:13) nepios nay'-pee-os from an obsolete particle ne- (implying negation) and 2031; not speaking, i.e. an infant (minor); figuratively, a simple-minded person, **an immature Christian**:--**babe, child** (+ -ish).

Hebrews 5:13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for **he is a babe**.

** A newly baptized person that as a new-born infant, seeks the sincere milk of the Word of God. This person grows in Christ and their spiritual family much like a child grows within a natural family. (Acts 2:41-42, Titus 2:1-8, 1 Peter 2:1-9).*

The Purpose of the Church on Earth

It is Christ that told His Apostles and Disciples to go teach (make disciples) of all nations (men).

Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 **Teaching them** to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.



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Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and **preach the gospel** to every creature. 16 **He that believeth** and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Ephesians 3:9 And to **make all men see** what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:



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Question 1

As defined, a disciple may also be a pupil or learner.

☐ True

☐ False

True/False

Question 2

As defined, a master may also be a teacher or instructor.

☐ True

☐ False

True/False

Question 3

As described in Matthew 28:18-20, what concepts are included in becoming a disciple of Christ?

☐ Algebra.

☐ Commandments.

☐ Baptism.

☐ Teaching.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)

Question 4

As described in Titus 2:7-8, as a disciple of Christ, we must show a pattern of good works including:

☐ Fornications.

☐ Sincerity.

☐ Sound speech.

☐ Uncorruptness in doctrine.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)



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Question 5

As described in 1 Peter 2:1-5, to become a disciple of Christ, we must lay aside all:

- ☐ Hypocrisies.
- ☐ Evil speakings.
- ☐ Malice.
- ☐ Ways to keep ourselves pure.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)

Question 6

As described in 1 Peter 5:1-8, as a witness of the sufferings of Christ, elders must:

- ☐ Be vigilant.
- ☐ Have a proud look.
- ☐ Have a ready mind.
- ☐ Be an example to the flock.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)



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Comments from the person reviewing your lesson to student:

Successfully completed:

Yes

Not yet