

Discipleship in Depth

A One-On-One Theologically Rich Discipleship Course

Textbooks: Now That I'm A Christian, C. Michael Patton; Crossway; Wheaton, Illinois, 2013.

The Holy Bible - Authorized Version

Introduction: "I intend to give you a solid start that will ground you in the most important issues that have defined Christianity for the last two thousand years." Since you are a child of the living God by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, His finished work on Calvary and His bodily resurrection from the dead:

- You are a Christian- "a small Christ"
- You are a disciple- "a disciple is a student of someone." At the time of Christ, when someone was a disciple of someone else:
 - They placed themselves completely under that person's authority both in education and lifestyle (Acts 4:13; John 4:8, 31-34)
 - Their goal was to become exactly like their mentor
 - In order to do so, they:
 - left everything to follow their mentor
 - went everywhere he went
 - did everything he did
 - attempted to believe everything he believed
 - As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ we have exactly the same **PRIVILEGE!**
 - It is the goal of this study to make you more effective as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - Discipleship cannot be carried to completion through a book but
 - You will find that discipleship can be accelerated through the principles of this study if taken to heart!

Here are some things to keep in mind as we begin our study:

1. **Discipleship is not something you do on the side!** Jesus commanded all who would follow Him to take up their cross. Being

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crucified is not a part-time activity. “It affects and infects every part of your being, everything that you do, and everything that you are. It is really difficult to be a Christian without being a disciple.” You may not be a good disciple or do everything right but it does mean that when you fall on your face, you will pick yourself up and get back on the path of following the eternal God!

2. **Discipleship is a command and not an option!** (Matthew 28:19-20)
We are required by no less authoritative figure than the Lord Jesus Christ himself who claims all power in heaven and earth to make disciples.
3. **Discipleship is not just a command, but a privilege!** We have the wonderful opportunity to come to know, love and serve the One who died for us and rose again from the dead to take away our fear of death and give us eternal life! Why wouldn't we want to be His disciples?
4. **The goal of our study is to point you in the right direction for a lifetime of discipleship!** You certainly can do this on your own. However, following after Christ can be dangerous and often confusing. It is the purpose of this study to:
 - a. Point you in the right direction.
 - b. Give you a basic roadmap to which you can refer over and over in the future.
 - c. Provide you with a resource to refer to again and again in your Christian walk.

The Need for Discipleship

There is an unwarranted perception that learning about God will stifle our passion for God- “I'd rather be led instead of read.” While it is true that in the heads of mere professors Bible doctrine can stagnate and become useless, for a real Christian there is no such danger. Our own experience reminds us that anyone passionate about any subject will crave to learn more and more about that subject. A real fan of NASCAR cannot learn enough about NASCAR. A real fan of cooking will desire to become a better and better cook. A book lover will desire more and more books.

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“If you have trusted in Christ, your eternal destiny has been altered by a Savior who lived, died, and rose in your place. He invites you to trade your heavy burden in exchange for his light yoke. Your God is with you every day and is leading you safely to your eternal home. Yet so many people will go months, years, or even a lifetime without taking the initiative to grow as a learner.”

The Plan of Our Study

This study provides you with the foundations for Discipleship. It is divided into two sections - the first five lessons will cover orthodoxy and the last five lessons will focus on orthopraxy.

- Our term orthodoxy comes from two Greek words- orthos = meaning straight and doxa = worship or praise. Orthodoxy is straight teaching (doctrine) which leads to appropriate worship and praise. People go to the orthodontist to straighten their teeth for a beautiful smile. You will come through this study with beautiful doctrine for a beautiful life which will be straightened by the Bible.
 - You cannot act upon that which you do not know. Our entire obedience is based on a correct understanding of who God is and what he has done for us!
 - Getting this foundation will drive you, with great excitement, to the path of discipleship.
 - It is as if you would say, “if Jesus has done all of this for me, I can’t wait to serve him and become more like him.”
 - If you had found the cure for cancer wouldn’t you want to tell everyone you knew? The knowledge is foundational. Our response to it changes the world. We have discovered a cure for the disease of sin which is a far greater benefit than a cure for cancer. Orthodoxy provides a foundation and a motivation for all we do for God.
 - We will examine five essential beliefs about which there is virtually no debate among Bible believing Christians. They are:
 - The Bible
 - Man
 - God
 - Christ
 - Faith

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- Our term orthopraxy comes from the same Greek word orthos and the word praxis from which we get our word practice. Proper doctrine will lead to proper duty and we will cover five areas that are essential to biblical practice
 - Prayer
 - Study
 - Church
 - Suffering
 - Mission

Your Notes and Questions: