
SERMON NOTES January 8, 2023

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

1st Thessalonians 1:4-8
...His Life-changing Power...
Pastor Mike

- I. The Biblical description of _____
- a. The most common Biblical description is _____
- b. Disciples is a _____, not just _____
- II. What _____ to be a disciple
- a. Disciple describes a _____, not a _____
- b. A disciple seeks to _____ his/her mentor
- c. A disciple is a _____, not just a _____
- III. Discipleship only happens in the context of _____
- a. Discipleship focuses on the _____ Biblical truth
- b. Becoming like Christ is _____ more than _____
- c. Vulnerability that models the _____, not the _____
- IV. The four _____ of discipleship
- a. _____; To _____ the path
- b. _____; To walk _____
- c. _____; Whom we _____
- d. _____; whom we invite to _____

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. A recent Pew survey showed that 63% of Americans identify themselves as Christians.
 - a. Does that surprise you? In your experience would you say that over 60% of the people that you interact with share your faith and commitment to Jesus Christ? If it's less than 60%, what percentage would you give?
 - b. If in your experience the percentage of people you interact with whom seem to share your faith and commitment to Christ is significantly less than 60%, why do you think there is such a gap between those who identify as Christians, and those who seem to live lives defined by a commitment to Jesus Christ?
2. In his message Pastor Mike pointed out that the most common term that the early followers of Christ in the Bible used to describe themselves wasn't the term 'Christian', but it was 'disciple.'
 - a. Why is this important? How would you define "disciple?" In what ways does the idea of being a disciple convey a different meaning than the cultural idea of being a Christian?
 - b. Pastor Mike said that the followers of Christ were called disciples not only as a name, but also as a description of the nature of their relationship with God. What did he mean by this?
 - c. Is your relationship with God a relationship of being a disciple? Why or why not?
3. A disciple of Jesus will strive to grow in his/her relationship with our Lord, and will increasingly become more and more like Him.
 - a. Can we honestly claim to be a disciple if we are not growing in our knowledge of Jesus, and in our relationship with him? Why or why not?
 - b. Can we honestly claim to be a disciple if we are not growing to be more and more like Jesus? Why or why not?
4. In his message Pastor Mike said that the Bible teaches that it is impossible to grow to maturity in our relationship with Jesus Christ if we are not connected in discipling relationships with other believers that are focused on our spiritual growth.
 - a. Do you agree with this? Why or why not? What Biblical teachings did he refer to in support this idea, and how do you understand and apply these teachings in your life? If this is true, are there any exceptions?
 - b. Our American culture stresses the idea of individualism. Do you think this American value has influenced our view of our relationship with God, so that we think of growth as something we can do alone? Explain your answer.
 - c. Are you involved in the discipling relationships with other believers who are helping you in your spiritual growth? If not, are you willing to make it a priority to get involved?
5. Discipleship only happens through close, sincere, and forthright relationships where we learn to unpack and apply God's truth to the details of our own lives. Why is it so difficult for many people to build the type of close, sincere relationships that are essential in discipleship? What steps can you take to build these discipling relationships in your life?