

Is Your Church Making Disciples? A Self-test

A disciple looks like Jesus. When we live our lives in such a way that others see Him in and through us, we can know we are living the life of a disciple. To be a disciple means we care nothing for anything other than Jesus and showing His love to others.

Jesus calls his disciples to follow His teachings. The key thought throughout all of the scriptures is obedience. The attitude of obedience is not particularly popular today, but it was not popular during Jesus' time either. Being a disciple of Christ, however, demands it.

While discipleship is not a program, it can be encouraged through special mentoring relationships and training classes in the local church. New Christians should have the opportunity to learn how to study the Bible and how to develop a personal devotional life. Older Christians should continue to mature while lending guidance. In this manner, the entire body of Christ will be edified.

The ultimate goal is found in Ephesians 4: 11-16:

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, (12) 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, (13) till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; (14) that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, (15) but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — (16) from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. NKJV

Is your church a “disciple-making church?” Give an honest answer to these questions.

Yes **No**

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| 1. Most attending our church are in regular Bible study. | ___ | ___ |
| 2. New Christians are discipled immediately after conversion in our church. | ___ | ___ |
| 3. Children in our church have opportunities to grow in maturity as Christians. | ___ | ___ |
| 4. I would rate the level of knowledge of the Bible as high in our church. | ___ | ___ |
| 5. Our Sunday school/small groups are very strong in Bible study. | ___ | ___ |
| 6. We tend to lose members within a few months after they have joined. | ___ | ___ |
| 7. Our church seems to lose more people than we gain. | ___ | ___ |
| 8. I would describe the commitment level of the majority of our members as low. | ___ | ___ |
| 9. The people in our church understand the church's doctrine, what we believe. | ___ | ___ |
| 10. New members receive good training and information when they join our church. | ___ | ___ |
| 11. Our church does a very good job at discipling members. | ___ | ___ |
| 12. We have many people involved in one-on-one discipling or mentoring. | ___ | ___ |

13. People in our church are given good training on how to develop a prayer life and quiet time. ___ ___
14. People in our church are given many opportunities to learn how to share and defend their faith. ___ ___
15. The lifestyles of the members at our church are significantly different than the world's lifestyle. ___ ___
16. At our church we know what we believe about the Bible and why we believe it. ___ ___
17. The more mature Christians in our church have a strong desire to help the less mature Christians in our church. ___ ___
18. I feel adequately prepared to disciple a new believer. ___ ___
19. I have been trained how to read and interpret the Bible correctly. ___ ___
20. Discipleship classes in our church are usually boring or irrelevant. ___ ___