

Rediscovering the Joy of Being with God and His People Pt. 14

"The Role of the Spiritual Disciplines in Discipleship "

January 24, 2021

It's impossible to be a disciple or a follower of someone and not end up like that person. Jesus said, "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher" (Luke 6:40). That's the whole point of being a disciple of Jesus: we imitate Him, carry on His ministry, and become like Him in the process. Yet somehow many have come to believe that a person can be a "Christian" without being like Christ. A "follower" who doesn't follow. How does that make any sense?

- *Francis Chan, "Multiply"*

The spiritual disciplines are vital to discipleship because...

1) We can't expect people to _____ in ways that we _____.

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. - The Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:1

2) We are called to change the world by _____,
not pointing out the _____ of our neighbors.

What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside - 1 Corinthians 5:12-13

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. - Ephesians 4:11-13

3) We can be easily _____ if we're not _____ and _____ in Christ.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. - Colossians 2:6-10

5 Disciplines to Review and Practice this Week:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

Discussion Questions

1) Thinking back on your journey with Jesus, who is one person who had the greatest influence in your decision to follow Christ? What about that person made you want to follow in their footsteps?

2) From your perspective, do we collectively as the American Church tend to focus on the failures of those *outside* the church, or those *inside* the church? Why?

3) In our journey through the spiritual disciplines, which disciplines have been the most life-giving and helpful to you? Why?

4) What are some areas in your life that you *do not* want to pass on to those in your sphere of influence? To those you are discipling?

5) Which spiritual discipline might be most helpful in growing more like Jesus in the area of your life that you don't want to pass on?

Read Colossians 2:6-10 together

6) When we're not deeply rooted and built up in Christ, we are susceptible to "hollow and deceptive philosophy". Can you identify some of the values and teachings of our day that you find yourself susceptible to that are not in alignment with the values of the Kingdom of God?

7) Who are a few people who don't know Jesus that you feel drawn to? How can you better model the way of Jesus for them in your interactions?