

Romans 12 (ESV) Discipleship

How much more like Christ are you today than you were when you were saved? Have you grown in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control?

At a very basic level discipleship is this: simply being made more like Jesus. It's the follower of Jesus pursuing Christ with all we are. To get even more basic – it's really just faithfully living out the Great Commandment and Great Commission. This is nothing new, but we really underestimate the power of truly living out a life worthy of the gospel.

- 1. Discipleship is fully giving ourselves to the gospel. (1)**
- 2. Discipleship is fully giving ourselves to God. (2-3)**
- 3. Discipleship is fully giving ourselves to the church. (4-13)**
- 4. Discipleship is fully giving ourselves to the lost and unreached. (14-21)**

Discipleship circles back to the beginning. In view of God's mercies, we can give ourselves fully to the gospel, to God himself, to His church, and to those who desperately need to hear about Jesus.

Let's not underestimate the power of truly living out a life worthy of the gospel. Let's not underestimate the power of faithfully living out the Great Commandment and Great Commission.

Charles Spurgeon says, "In Christ's days, and afterwards, discipleship usually involved the absolute giving up of everything that his followers had, for those were times of persecution; and if such seasons should come to us, we must have such love to Christ that, for his sake, we could forsake all that we have; otherwise, we cannot be his disciples."

For further consideration:

How can we become more like Christ? What's a step today that would move us one degree closer to His image? Have you given yourself fully to the gospel? Have you given yourself fully to God? Are you holding back in sacrifice? Are you holding back in worship? Are you holding back in generosity? Are you holding back in your desire to know Him in a deeper way? Are you holding back in your intimacy with Christ?

Have you given yourself fully to the church? Are you invested here? Are you planted here? Are you invested in community here?

Have you given yourself fully to reaching the lost in our community and our country? Have you given yourself fully to the 3 billion people around the world who have never heard the gospel? Does this bother us? Does this even make us pause? How can we better pray, give, and go for the cause of Christ around the globe?

Let's be ready and willing to give ourselves fully for the cause of Christ boldly declaring – "I'll follow my Christ who loves me so. Wherever He leads I'll go."