

Jesus Laid Down His Life For Us

With regard to doing good for humanity, what was the primary object of Jesus laying down his life for us? To bring us to Father.

- So that the we may share in the joy that Christ enjoys with the Father
- So that we can bear fruit
- So that our joy will be complete
- So that our enmity toward God would be replaced by a loving relationship.

So it should be with us! We should lay down our lives for others with the deliberate intent of making ourselves a means that God may use to do these good things in the lives of others.

Jesus Made Known to Us All That He had Learned From His Father

Second, we read that another mark of Christ's love for His disciples is that he made known to them what he learned from the Father. He opened up the truth and purposes of God to them.

So a second way we imitated Christ and show love for our brethren is by willingly sharing with others the truth you have learned from God's Word.

CONCLUSION:

1. To be fruitful in discipling we should focus on the fundamental motivation for discipling—our joy in God's glory.
2. Desiring to see others grow is normative for Christians.

Next Week: Barriers and Excuses for Discipling

Core Seminars—Discipling Class 2: Why Disciple?



Reason #1: Why Disciple? For your Joy!

Scripture presents *our joy* as a legitimate motivator for Christians disciplers.

“³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always *pray with joy* ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now” (Philippians 1:3-5).

“¹If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then *make my joy complete* by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose” (Philippians 2:1-2).

“¹Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, *my joy and crown*, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!” (Philippians 4:1).

“¹⁹Everyone has heard about your obedience, *so I am full of joy over you*; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.” (Romans 16:19).

“⁴I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles *my joy knows no bounds*.... ¹³By all this we are encouraged. In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you. ¹⁴*I had boasted to him about you*, and you have not embarrassed me. But just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting about you to Titus has proved to be true as well. ¹⁵And his affection for you is all the greater when he

remembers that you were all obedient, receiving him with fear and trembling. ¹⁶*I am glad I can have complete confidence in you*” (2 Corinthians 7:4, 13-16).

“¹⁹For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?²⁰Indeed, you are our glory and joy” (1 Thess 2:19-20).

“⁴It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us” (2 John 1:4).

In all these verses, what was Paul and John’s basis for rejoicing? God intends to produce joy in you when you are used to help others prosper and grow.

Reason #2: Why Disciple? For God’s glory!

We learn from God’s word that the result of discipling is greater fruit from our lives that leads to God’s glory. Let’s look at John 15:1-8. Here Jesus teaches his followers saying:

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown in the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

What is it that Christ describes in the life of the believer that will bring glory to the Father? Our bearing much fruit. We will discuss what that fruit *is* in a moment.

And what will that fruitfulness demonstrate to a watching world? That we are true disciples of Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father.

So then, what is this fruit that Jesus is speaking about? In John 15:9-17, we see examples of the kind of fruit that Jesus has in mind, the fruit that should naturally flow from our being “in Christ” and how that fruit brings great glory to the Father.

John 15: 9-17.

9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

We are told that we should love each other as Christ has loved us. So, it seems obvious that at least part of the fruit that is implied here is love, i.e. a love for God that shows itself in love for each other.