



LIFE NEWS

WHATEVER YOU DO

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If you hear the word "discipleship," what do you think of?

Often when we hear this word, we think of things that happen on a church campus. We think of preaching and Sunday school. There is a tendency for us to separate our everyday life and our discipleship. Our discipleship is not only what happens during our church services, but our discipleship, Paul argues, takes place both in church and in our everyday life.

This past Sunday, as part of our class on parenting teens, we talked about discipleship. As part of this discussion, Johanna and I talked about the different parts of discipleship – discipline, modeling, teaching, service, prayer, worship, and more. As we talked, this verse kept coming up –

"Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Colossians 3:16-17

This portion of Colossians teaches us a few things about discipleship. First, all discipleship is rooted in the Word of God. As we make disciples, we must base our discipleship on the words of Christ in scripture. We can use many methods and resources that we use to make disciples; however, all these resources must be based on the words of Christ.

Second, as we worship, we are taught about God. When we gather to sing to God together, we teach and encourage one another by proclaiming the truth. This is one reason we worship together. We worship together so that each of us will understand who God is and what he has done for us.

Third, our discipleship is not limited to what happens on Sundays or what happens at mid-week services. Instead, Paul says that everything we do is to be done to God's glory. This is vastly different from what we often think about when we hear the word discipleship.

Discipleship then happens as we live like Christ in everything we do. In 1 Corinthians 10, Paul tells us,

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." Even our eating and drinking is to be done to God's glory.

Paul's teaching throughout the epistles is that our entire life is meant to be dedicated to God. For us, each moment of the day is an opportunity for us to be conformed to the image of Christ. Our discipleship is not simply done at church, but we become more and more like Christ as we glorify God, even in things as mundane as eating and drinking.

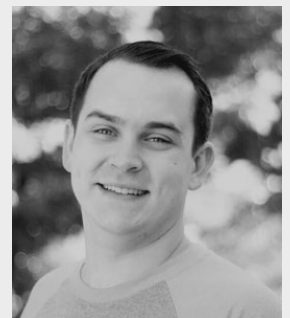


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Paul does not give us a limit to the scope of our discipleship. We are to glorify God in "whatever we do." This far-reaching command ought to convict us. It also gives us a goal. That we fix our eyes on Christ and live each day – each moment – to the glory of God.

This week I was reminded of these passages, and it caused me to pause and ask the question – am I glorifying God through my normal activities? Or, to put it another way, – how might I glorify God in my eating, in my driving, and in my parenting?

What would it look like if we didn't view our discipleship as a segment of our lives but as encompassing our whole person? What would we need to change? What would we need to give up? What would we need to begin doing?



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