

More Caught Than Taught

Part 7 of the *Disciple* series

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There is a Christianity that fits with Western culture & lifestyle and there's a Christianity that doesn't.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.

Matthew 28:18-29

A disciple is someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus.

We're all at different stages in the discipleship journey.

The primary method that Jesus used in making disciples was relationship.

If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.

1 John 1:7

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1-3

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:9-10

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Hebrews 13:1-3

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:35

Relationships are simple but hard.

If Jesus made disciples in relationship, then that's what we need to be doing too.

Next Steps

Take some time to answer the following questions with your spouse, children, or small group...

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-4, Ephesians 4:1-3, Romans 12:9-10. Take some time to honestly assess whether or not the relationships you have with other followers of Jesus reflects the depth of love spoken of in these verses. Where are you strong? Where do you need to grow?
- Why do you think it's so difficult for us to experience deep relationship in western culture? What are some of the obstacles that get in the way for you personally? Explain.
- What are some steps you can begin taking today to begin growing in relationship with other believers? Do these steps make you excited or apprehensive? Why?
- What's the worst & best thing that could happen if you decide to pursue deep, authentic relationships with other believers?