

Biblical Discipleship



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Matthew 28:18-20a (NET)

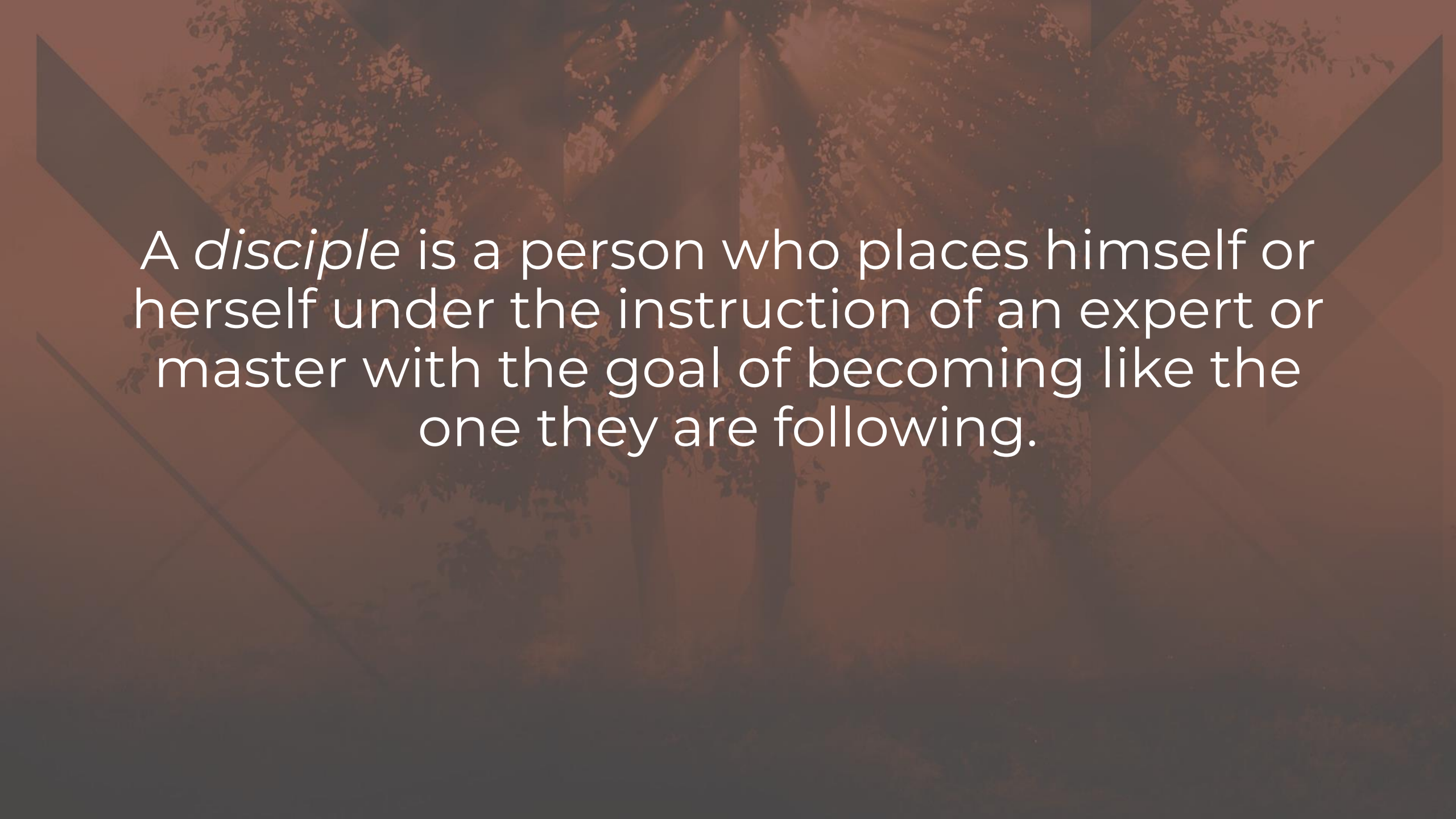
“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Introduction

Jesus makes two calls:

“Come to me”

“Follow me”



A disciple is a person who places himself or herself under the instruction of an expert or master with the goal of becoming like the one they are following.

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“know him”

“Now this is eternal life - that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent.” John 17:3

“We know that the Son of God has come and has given us insight to know him who is true...” 1 John 5:20

“My aim is to know him...” Philippians 3:10

Two words

gnosis – knowledge, intellectual understanding

- Gnostics, Gnosticism
- agnostic

*epi**gnosis* – full knowledge, recognition

2 Peter 1:3, 8 (NET)

His divine power has bestowed on us everything necessary for life and godliness through the rich knowledge of the one who called us by his own glory and excellence. . . . For if these [eight] things are really yours and are continually increasing, they will keep you from becoming ineffective and unproductive in your pursuit of knowing our Lord Jesus Christ more intimately.

The background features a large, leafy tree with a path leading through its branches. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent, dark brown and black geometric pattern consisting of various shapes and lines, creating a layered, abstract effect.

The Discipleship Path

2 Peter 1:5-8 (NET)

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your **faith excellence**, to excellence, **knowledge**; to knowledge, **self-control**; to self-control, **perseverance**; to perseverance, **godliness**; to godliness, **brotherly affection**; to brotherly affection, **unselfish love**.

8 steps of the “Path”

1. Faith
2. Excellence
3. Knowledge
4. Self-control
5. Perseverance
6. Godliness
7. Brotherly affection
8. Unselfish love

2 Peter 1:8 (NET)

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Acts 4:12

John 14:6

Acts 16:30-31

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Colossians 1:19-20

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areté:

- “moral excellence” (NASB, NLT, Amp)
- “virtue” (ESV, (N)KJV, ASV)
- “goodness” (CSB, NIV, NRSV)
- “excellence” (NET, RSV)

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areté:

If not “goodness,” what other legitimate meaning makes sense?

“self-declaration, loyalty”

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If *areté* means “self-declaration” then:

- “baptizing them” (Matt 28:19)
- “present your bodies as a sacrifice” (Rom 12:1)
- “present your body parts as instruments of righteousness” (Rom 6:12)

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Excellence is when the believer makes his or her intentional declaration to identify with and submit to Jesus.

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1. Water baptism
2. Church membership
3. All-in dedication

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2 Timothy 2:14-15

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Titus 3:8

2 Peter 3:17-18

2 Timothy 2:14-15 (NET)

Remind people of these things and solemnly charge them before the Lord not to wrangle over words. This is of no benefit; it just brings ruin on those who listen. Make every effort to present yourself before God as a proven worker who does not need to be ashamed, teaching the message of truth accurately.

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James 1:22

Philippians 2:12-13

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Tests (Genesis 22:1;
James 1:2-3)

Temptations
(James 1:13-14)

Trials (1 Peter 4:12-13)

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2 Peter 1:4

Romans 8:29

Ephesians 4:22-24

Colossians 3:9-10

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

2 Peter 1:4 (NET)

Through these things he has bestowed on us his precious and most magnificent promises, so that by means of what was promised you may become partakers of the divine nature, after escaping the worldly corruption that is produced by evil desire.

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Godliness is when our character, ethics, worldview, and thought patterns accurately reflect Christ.



Faith
Excellence

Brotherly Affection
Unselfish Love

Knowledge Self-control
Perseverance Godliness

8 steps of the “Path”

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Luke 14:26

1 Thessalonians 5:11

1 Peter 4:7-11

Romans 12:9-13

Galatians 6:10

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agapē

John 13:35

1 Peter 3:15

Galatians 6:10

Romans 2:4

2 Corinthians 5:19