

Seven Key Traits of Disciple-making Disciples and the Disciples They Make
Romans 1:5

OBEDIENCE OF FAITH

The ministry of disciple-making disciples and the disciples they make is to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of Christ's name among all the nations.

God instructs us through His servant that we have been empowered and authorized to present to the people of this world in which we live the command of God to believe the gospel and put their faith in Jesus Christ.

At creation, humanity was given a single command from the Creator: Do not eat.

Adam and Eve disobeyed.

Disobedience is sin.

Their guilt, their law-breaking, brought the righteous and just condemnation of God upon themselves and all who came after them, including you and me.

God promised One would come who would right the wrong and reconcile humanity with God, creation with Creator.

Genesis 3:15 (ESV) *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*

That Savior is Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 1:4)

The gospel is the true record of God's gracious work to reconcile sinners to Himself through the life and death of Jesus Christ, God incarnate.

Inherent in the gospel is another command:

Believe the gospel.

Put your faith in Jesus Christ.

Trust Him with your life.

Follow Him.

In the gospel, sinners are faced with another command of God that requires obedience: the obedience of faith, the obedience of submission, the obedience of trust in the wisdom and grace of God embodied in Jesus Christ.

AMONG ALL THE NATIONS

The gospel call for the obedience of faith is meant to reach all the nations of the earth.

Jesus

Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV) *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

Acts 1:8 (ESV) *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the*

end of the earth.”

The gospel has come to you and you, in loving surrender to your Savior, have the privilege and responsibility to take the gospel to the world. This is Paul’s point in Romans: **“Get the gospel right and get the gospel out.”**

START WITH PRAYER

The question I want to ask this morning is, “Where do we start?”

The world is vast and the needs are great and we are few.

Where do we start?

We often think geographically in response to this question.

What nation? What place? What people?

Perhaps, instead of thinking geographically we can start by thinking strategically.

Matthew 5:43-48 (ESV) *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Pray for those who persecute you.

Pray for those most likely to oppose you.

Pray for those most likely to resist the gospel you bring.

Pray for those most likely to be set aside and neglected by you.

Jesus says, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.”

What does He mean?

Jesus brought the gospel of God’s love.

He taught the gospel.

He lived the gospel.

He is the gospel.

He died for the gospel.

And as He hangs dying upon the cross.

He looked out across the faces of those who persecuted Him

And He prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Jesus proved He was the son of His Father in heaven, for He loved His enemies, just as the Father loves sinners and gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Let’s start taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to all the nations of the world by praying for

the enemies of God, sinners who set their will against God's will, either in ignorance or intent.

And let's be specific this morning. In 1984, then President Ronald Reagan, proclaimed the third Sunday in January, National Right to Life Day. That day eventually became Sanctity of Life Sunday. When January has only four Sundays, this would be the third Sunday in January. Today is Sanctity of Life Sunday.

Sanctity of Life Sunday reminds us that God is life.

Genesis tells us that when God created man He breathed the breath of life into the lump of clay and the clay became a living being.

Psalm 139 reveals that every individual person is a unique creation of God, an expression of His divine will and handiwork.

The apostle John tells us that in Jesus was life and the life was the light of men.

Paul tells us that in Christ we live and move and have our being.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (ESV) ¹⁹ *I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live,* ²⁰ *loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days,*

Many in our culture and in the world today prefer death over life.

A bill has just passed the MN House of Representatives that codifies abortion in the state of MN.

It does not change what already exists here but it writes abortion into law in such a way that a MN Supreme Court decision cannot reverse it in the future.

That bill is now headed for the State Senate sometime this week.

The proponents of the bill tout it as the guarantee that abortion will continue to be legal and accessible in MN.

The author of the bill said, "No one wants abortion . . . this will at least guarantee abortions are safe."

Problem is, abortion is never safe.

Someone always dies!

Laws supporting euthanasia continue to multiply in our country and around the world.

Where do we start with the gospel?

We start by praying for those who oppose Christ and His rule in their lives.

We start by praying about any animosity or resistance to the will of God in our lives.

We continue by praying for those who reject the will of God in their lives.

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.

This morning, I am asking you to join me in prayer.

Pray for those who set themselves against the will of God revealed in His word and in His

Son.

Pray for the nations. Pray for those who reject the gospel.

Pray

- That we may find God's perspective on life
- That we may see a move of God that transforms hearts and changes minds
- That abortion providers may come to see their own enslavement to death and desire Christ
- That women and men choosing abortion will have the resources to face a different choice
- That pro-life people will step up and provide the assistance others need to support life choice
- That the gospel will be heard and loved and obeyed by those among all the nations whom God is calling to Himself
- That national and global leaders will consider Bible truth and take it to heart. That they will turn from their wicked ways and submit to the holiness of God.
- That God will be honored and Christ exalted as the Spirit moves among the nations to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of the name of Christ.
- That the church of Jesus Christ will be bold and vocal rather than cowardly and silent; that we will know that we have received grace and calling to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations
- That we here at Cornerstone will actively pursue all the opportunities and relationships God offers for speaking and living the gospel, here in Grand Marais, in MN, in the US, and around the world.
- That the message of God's love and forgiveness in Christ will be foremost in our thinking and on our lips, so that no opportunity is lost because we are not prepared.
- That lives will be saved, that life will be sought, that eternal life will be gained through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.