

Six Steps in Making Disciples

➤ There are **six steps that the first apostles took in making disciples**, and we need to follow their example.

The steps are clearly Scriptural and if you will follow these steps, you will be raising committed disciples of Jesus Christ, who will be able to continue *“steadfastly”* in the fellowship of the church and in the outreach of the Gospel.

1. Preach the gospel, Mark 16:15.

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

The gospel is for every person. The gospel is for all men, (1Tim.2:6). It is God’s will for *“all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* 1Tim.2:4 [also 2Pet.3:9].

We are to preach:

- Jesus the Christ, Acts 5:42; Acts 9:20-22
- the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus, Acts 8:12 & Acts 28:31
- the unsearchable riches of Messiah, Eph.3:8, showing who Jesus is (Matt.16:16-18, Matt.14:33)

2. Baptise those who believe

“He who believes and is baptised will be saved” Mark 16:16a.

Baptism is commanded by Jesus; it is an essential part of salvation. Baptism is *“into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”* (Matt.28:19b). Biblical names meant the actual person and often the name was prophetically revealing an essential characteristic of that person.

The important thing here is **the name**. Baptising means immersing. A loose paraphrase could be ‘immersing them into **the person** of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit’. Who is that person? Clearly the person is JESUS, who is the manifestation of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15), and in whom *“dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily”* (Col.2:9)

Acts 4:12 tells us *“nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”*.

The apostles baptised in the name of Jesus. [see Acts 2:38; 8:16; 19:5].

Peter said in Acts 2:38 that as a result of baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, sins would be remitted, and the new believer would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This happened in Ephesus (Acts 19:5-6).

3. Teaching them all things that Jesus taught us,

“Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” Matt.28:20.

Jesus had trained the twelve for three years and He confidently commissioned them to teach all that He had taught them (John 17:18 & John 20:21).

We are to teach the new disciples:

- the apostles’ doctrine, Acts 2:42
- that Jesus is the Christ, Acts 5:42
- the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, Acts 28:31
- sound doctrine [how to behave], Titus 2:1-10
- with all wisdom, as to how to grow to maturity, Col.1:28
- we are to pass on what we have received, 2Tim.2:2
- we are to teach the foundations of Hebrew 6:1-2

The major ministry of the New Testament is teaching:

- ✓ all the ministries of Ephesians 4:11 are to be able to teach;
- ✓ the elders of the local churches are to be able to teach (1Tim.3:2b, 1Tim.5:17);
- ✓ all the saints are to be able to teach (Heb.5:12).

4. Demonstrate real fellowship,

Acts 2:44-45 *“Now all who believed were together and had all things in common ... divided them among all, as anyone had need.”*

The first church practiced a high level of interactive fellowship. The needs of the brethren were met by other brethren in the Christian community.

Disciples need to be brought into a functioning fellowship. Fellowship includes **caring and sharing**, looking after the needs of the brethren, not just physical needs but the care of the soul as well.

Fellowship includes **financial contribution**, so new believers need to be taught about giving from the Scripture – tithes and offerings (**Acts 4:34-35; Philippians 4:16-19**). Regarding tithing (**Matthew 23:23; Genesis 14:20; Malachi 3:10-12**).

5. Breaking of Bread, Acts 2:46.

The first church broke bread *“daily ... breaking bread from house to house.”* Most churches do not practice the breaking of bread regularly and yet the early church broke bread daily from house to house. It is time for the church to see the Lord’s Table restored. All new disciples are to be brought to the Lord’s Table regularly.

The apostle Paul taught deeply about the significance of breaking bread in **1Corinthians 11:23-34**. The disciples need to be taught the significance of, and the reality of, the breaking of bread. The Communion Table is a covenant table: Jesus said, *“This cup is the new covenant in My blood”* (**1Cor.11:25**).

The breaking of bread, also called the Lord’s Table, is not the time to remember sin, but to remember Jesus who took away all our sin.

The examination that Paul refers to in **1 Corinthians 11:28** is the examination of **2 Corinthians 13:5** *“Do you not know yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you?”* Believers are to examine themselves and then eat and drink.

The discerning of the Lord’s body referred to in **1 Corinthians 11:29** is actually a Greek word mostly translated as ‘*doubting*’. We are to **discern the Lord’s body**, that is, not to doubt what we are doing, but to proceed in fullness of faith.

6. Prayer, Acts 2:41-42.

“Those who gladly received his word were baptised ... and they continued steadfastly ... in prayers.”

New disciples need to be taught concerning prayer even as Jesus taught concerning prayer. We are to **teach the Lord’s prayer as the pattern** of how to pray (**Matt.6:9-13 & Lu.11:1-4**).

In prayer we:

- relate to God as our Father
- we come to know the realm of the kingdom of heaven
- we honour His name as holy [the revelation of His name - JESUS]
- we pray for His kingdom to come and His will to be done in the earth

- we ask for our daily needs, which are both natural and spiritual
- we deal with unforgiveness of others so that we can receive God’s forgiveness
- we ask God to lead us, not in the way of temptation
- and we ask God to deliver us from the evil one

The prayer concludes with an affirmation of God’s kingdom, His power and His glory!

We are to teach the disciples to **pray for all men and those in authority** *“to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (**1Tim.2:1-2**),

We are to teach the disciples to **pray for the saints**, *“with all prayer and supplication in the spirit”* (**Ephesians 6:18**); and to **pray for the apostle and others who have the responsibility to preach and teach** the word of God that they may have boldness *“to make known the mystery of the gospel”* (**Eph.6:19**).

Conclusion

If we follow these six steps diligently, understanding that discipleship is fully necessary and we are to forsake the religious lifestyle of many churches, then we are able to make disciples as Jesus commanded us to do (**Matthew 28:18-20**).

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