

# Belonging to a local church

- Governance
- Gatherings
- Giving
- **Growing**
- **Going**

- ***Growing***

- **The discipleship process**

## **Matthew 4:18-22**

*18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.*

Three things are important in discipleship

- ***Follow Me*** - we are all called to be disciples, not of a program or system or even a church, but disciples of Jesus.
- ***I will make you*** - Jesus' promise to every one of us, is that He will MAKE us!
- ***Fishers of men*** - It is Jesus earnest intent to make every one of us into those who seek and save the lost. Ultimately, this is what a disciple is all about - fishers of men!

As we follow Jesus, let us submit to Him making us fishers of men.

- **The goal or vision of discipleship**

## **2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (NIV)**

*17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

In discipleship, the vision we have before us, is for every one of us to become more like Jesus! He is our role model, our prototype, our forerunner, our example and our 'older brother'. The one whom we follow hard after!

## • The continuity of discipleship

### 2 Timothy 2:1-2

*1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.*

- Paul can see three generations into the future! He is a true father. 1 Corinthians 4:15-16 *15 For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 16 I urge you, then, be imitators of me.*
- The key issue and heart that is required in the discipleship process is to be reliable or faithful.
- Every one is part of the discipleship process. It takes place as we meet together, as we do life together and as we partner together with God's apostolic purposes.
- Are we linked in?
- Like begets like! 1 Corinthians 11:1 *Follow me (says Paul), as I follow Christ.*

## • What will discipleship produce?

- Health
- Maturing
- Growth
- Fruit

## ● *Going*

### Matthew 28:18-20

*18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 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

*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.*

- Our concern is for the NATIONS and our NEIGHBOURHOOD.
  - Jerusalem
  - Judea
  - Samaria
  - End of the earth
- We are enabled with power to get the job done!
  - You will receive power

- You will be My witnesses
  - Jerusalem - through persecution
  - Antioch - led of the Spirit

### **Ephesians 2:18-22**

18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

### **Mark 16:14-20**

14 Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. 15 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

19 So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

- The apostolic nature of every believer
  - Involved with the harvest.
  - Lost and found matters!
  - The priesthood of every believer. Every one is called to GO!
- The Kingdom is advancing IN and THROUGH our lives
  - Where I stay
  - Where I work
  - Where I play
  - Where I pray

### **2 Corinthians 2:14-16**

14 But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. 15 **For we are the aroma of Christ** to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 16 to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?

### **1 Corinthians 9:19-27**

19 For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. **I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.** 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

### **1 Peter 3:13-17**

13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;** yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.