

REDISCOVERING DISCIPLESHIP

Ordinary Means for an Extraordinary Call

Charles & Charlotte McKnight



Big Idea: Christ has already provided his people with the main *ordinary* resources we need to pursue the *extraordinary* call of discipleship in whatever context he has placed us.

Big Goal: To (re) introduce biblical principles of discipleship for you to “take and bake” in your context.

Big Questions (Biblical Foundations for Christian Discipleship):

- What is a Christian Disciple?

Key Texts: *Mark 1:16-20, John 14:6, Matthew 22:34-40, 28:16-20, Luke 9:23-24, 57-62, 14:25-33*

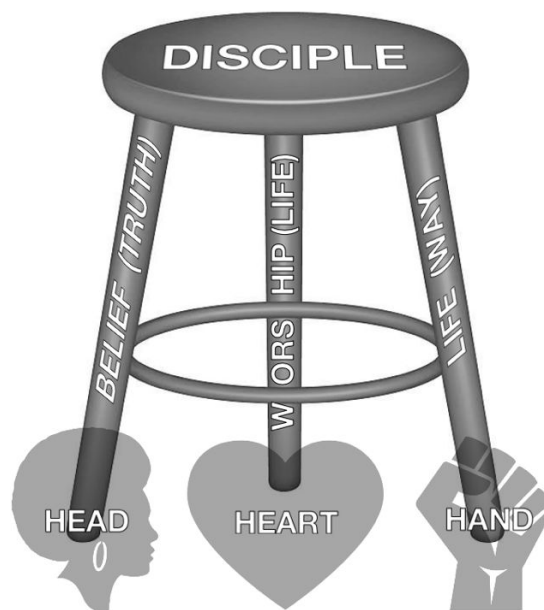
- What is Christian Discipleship?

Christian discipleship is the process by which disciples grow in their ability to follow Jesus in belief, worship, and life, according to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

- What are the *ordinary means* for Christian discipleship?

Key Texts: *Acts 2:42-47, 2 Timothy 3:15-16*

The ordinary means for Christian discipleship are the “Ordinary Means of Grace” – Word, Sacraments, and Prayer. [See Westminster Confession of Faith 14.1, Westminster Shorter Catechism 88]



- What are the *primary* and *secondary* contexts by which disciples should look to regularly experience growth by these means?

Disciples should primarily seek to seek to regularly experience growth by these means through public, family, and private worship, and secondarily through ‘gospelicious’ community life and mentor-mentee relationships.

Key Texts: *Acts 2:42, Deuteronomy 6:4-8, Matthew 6:5-6, Acts 2:46-47, Hebrews 10:24-25, Titus 2:1-8*

- Discipleship through the ‘Ordinary Means’ in the ‘Black Church’: *A Testimony*
- What are the unique benefits or focusing on the ordinary means of grace in intercultural discipleship contexts?

-*Accessibility:* Most have easy access to Scripture and prayer regardless of cultural background

-*Effectiveness:* “All Scripture profitable...”; Proven to “work” in every culture (and intercultural community!) throughout Christian history

-*Unification:* Shared Value; Same Word, Same God we pray to through the Spirit in Christ; Same Table we all come to commune

-*Clarification:* God’s Word helps us to know what we ought to celebrate and critique in our own culture(s), and the others

-*Edification:* Unique edifying blessings of studying God’s word and praying in diverse community

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- What are the unique *challenges* in focusing on the ordinary means of grace in intercultural discipleship contexts (or unique temptations to not focus on them)?

-Different culturally informed *interpretations of Scripture*

-Different culturally informed *worship preferences*

-Different culturally informed *expectations of gospel community life*

These challenges (and many others!) can lead discipleship communities to sense the need to spend time exploring and better understanding their cultural diversity (GOOD), but sometimes at the expense of remaining focused on the ordinary means of grace (BAD).

- *Discipleship through the 'Ordinary Means' in Intercultural Churches: A Testimony*
- What Fruit Should We Expect from Focusing on The Ordinary Means of Grace in Our Intercultural Discipleship Communities?

Key Text: Romans 12:9-21

Genuine Love / Affection /	Joy	Solidarity in Struggle &	Humility
Honor for One Another	Hope	Triumphs	Ethical Living
Hate of Evil	Patience	Unity	Peace
Love of Good	Support for Felt Needs	Heart for the Marginalized	Forgiveness
Zeal to Serve God	Hospitality		

- How might these fruits help us better navigate challenges related to race and culture in our churches?

Recommended Book Resources:

- Gary A. Parrett and S. Steve Kang, *Teaching the Faith, Forming the Faithful: A Biblical Vision for Education in the Church* (InterVarsity, 2009)
- J.I. Packer and Gary A. Parrett, *Grounded in the Gospel: Building Believers the Old-Fashioned Way* (Baker, 2010)
- Mark Dever, *Discipling: How To Help Others Follow Jesus* (Crossway, 2016)
- Michael Horton, *The Gospel Commission: Recovering God's Strategy for Making Disciples* (Baker, 2011)
- Stephen Smallman, *The Walk: Steps For New and Renewed Followers of Jesus* (P&R, 2009)
- Trillia J. Newbell, *United: Captured by God's Vision for Diversity* (Moody, 2014)

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