

BEING LEADS TO BUILDING

It is easy to see why living in right relationships is so important. Relationships are the only things that last for eternity. What a mistake it would be to live your whole life and never prioritize the things that really matter. What a mistake it would also be to live your entire life and never help others prioritize what matters. That is why being a disciple should lead to building more disciples.

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus told us to, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." In this passage Jesus commissions us to make disciples by going, baptizing and teaching.

When Jesus said make disciples by going, He literally means "as you are going, make disciples." This means we are to make disciples as we go to work, school, the gym, the ballfield, the garden club, etc. Jesus calls us to make disciples everywhere we go. Just like Jesus, we need to share God's love with lost people. A person cannot be a disciple until they experience salvation. If we are going to build disciples we must connect with the lost and help them connect with God.

The second step in making disciples is baptizing. Why did Jesus include baptism in the disciple-making process? Baptism is part of the disciple-making process because it is a tangible expression of commitment. Baptism is a visible expression of commitment to following Christ and belonging to His church. As the wedding ring symbolizes a commitment to a person, baptism represents a commitment to Christ.

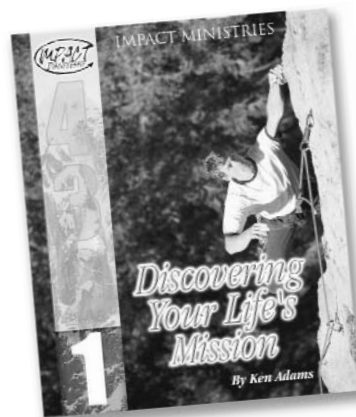
The final step Jesus emphasized in the disciple-making process was to make disciples by teaching. What did Jesus teach His disciples? He taught them how to live in right relationships and how to help others do the same.

Jesus modeled right relationships for His disciples and He multiplied His disciples to do the same with others.

So how about you? Are you connecting with lost people? When was the last time you shared Christ? Are you leading others to baptism? When was the last time someone was baptized because of you? Are you discipling someone? How many generations of disciples are you responsible for?

Have you discovered your life's mission? Have you been climbing the ladder of success only to find that it was leaning against the wrong wall? You exist to be a disciple and to build disciples of Jesus Christ. Nothing more and nothing less.

If you want to know more about your life's mission, I encourage you to take the next



twelve weeks and study the Impact course titled, "Discovering Your Life's Mission." You can order this course from Impact Ministries at the address below. Don't miss this great chance to grow!

For more information contact:

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DISCOVERING MY LIFE'S MISSION



by Ken Adams

Let me begin this article with a personal confession. I really want my life to count for the things that count! To me, that means living my life in such a way that impacts eternity. I'm not simply satisfied with an earthly contribution. I want to contribute to eternity. My goal is to live my life in such a way that other people's lives will be influenced for the rest of eternity.

I'd like to make another confession. I believe every Christian should want their life to count for the things that count. I believe every Christian should live in such a way that they impact others for eternity.

Over the years, I have come to realize that most Christians are not impacting people for eternity. So the question is this: Why not? I believe there are several reasons why most Christians are not impacting eternity, but the number one reason is because they truly do not know their mission in life.

Many believers are like the airline pilot who came over the intercom during a coast to coast flight. He said, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. We are flying at 30,000 feet and at a speed of 500 miles per hour. I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that we are lost. We have absolutely no idea where we are. The good news is that we are making excellent time." Lots of Christians are going nowhere – fast!

I have personally committed myself to being a believer who knows where he is going. I have read everything I could find on developing a personal mission statement. I have listened to dozens of tapes on "My Life's Purpose." I have attended several seminars on how to discover your life's mission. Let me save you a lot of time, energy, and money. If you are a believer, you do not need to discover your life's purpose or mission. Christ has already done that for you! If you belong to Jesus Christ, His mission is your mission. You need not read another book on finding your purpose. You do not need to listen to another tape or attend another seminar. If you are "walking as Jesus walked," (1 John 2:6) your purpose and mission is the exact same purpose and mission of Jesus Christ.

Christ's Mission = Being a Disciple + Building more Disciples

JESUS' MISSION, MY MISSION

If I were lost in the woods, I would need a compass to find my way. If I wind up being lost in life, I'll need a compass to find my way. That compass is Christ's mission. If I follow

Christ's mission, I will always know exactly why I am here.

Jesus always knew exactly why He was on earth. In fact, check out Jesus' prayer toward the end of this life, in John 17:4. Jesus said, "I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave Me to do." It does not sound like Jesus had mission drift to me. It sounds to me like Jesus knew exactly why He was on earth.

Jesus was on earth to bring glory to God by completing the work He gave Him. What was that work? It was the same work Jesus gave us, "To make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19-20)

GOD'S GLORY = BEING AND BUILDING

I've heard it said that the two most important days in one's life are, 1) the day you are born, and 2) the day you understand why you were born. God wants you to know why you are here. You are here to live as a disciple and to make more disciples. When you are being a disciple and building disciples, you give God glory.

Before Jesus built one single disciple He was the model of the perfect disciple. Jesus was the flesh and blood model of what He came to produce in others. Jesus summarized what it means to "be" a disciple in Matthew 22:37-39. In what is commonly called the Great Commandment, Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."

In Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus is basically saying that being a disciple means living in a right relationship with God, with yourself, and with others. Jesus Himself lived a life perfectly related to His Father, to Himself and to others. Living in a right relationship with God means knowing God and growing in God. Obviously, you cannot have a right relationship with God if you do not know Him, but you will also miss

a right relationship with God if you are not growing in Him. God wants you to have a fellowship relationship with Him. In James 4:8, God says, "Come near to God and He will come near to you." Are you experiencing a deep sense of fellowship with God?

Being a disciple that brings God glory means living in a right relationship with yourself. Most people are confused about being rightly related to self. The world teaches that the right way to relate to self is to promote self. The Lord teaches that the right way to relate to self is to deny self. John the Baptist said, "I must decrease, so He might increase." (John 3:30) You bring glory to God when you realize your life's mission is to be dead to self and alive in Christ. Are you decreasing so Christ can increase?

Living rightly related to others is the last relationship in being a disciple. Jesus tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves. The term "neighbors" refers to everyone you come in contact with. Your relationships with others can be summarized in three major categories:

- 1) Your relationships with your family.
- 2) Your relationships with your spiritual family – church.
- 3) Your relationships with your human family – world.

By living in right relationships with others you can only be responsible for your side of the relationship. You cannot be responsible for those that you have relationship with. In Romans 12:18, Paul says, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

How are your relationships with others? Are you doing everything in your power to live in peace?

Don't forget that being a disciple of Christ brings you "JOY" . . . Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself last!

