

Our mission statement is to share Christ as we mature in Him. This is our goal as a church – a dynamic disciple-making church.

6 marks of a maturing disciple:

1) A life walk that is worthy of the Lord

Colossians 1:9-10

⁹For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰that you may walk **worthy of the Lord**, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Verse 10 – ‘worthy’ means making the Lord proud of us and specifically, to reflect His nature. The three main streams of God are (Jeremiah 9:23-24):

- a) lovingkindness
- b) just
- c) righteous

Our love for God and for one another will grow as we experience the love of God. We can only love the stubborn and difficult people as we experience the love of God.

Jude tells us that in the end times, people would turn the grace of God into licentiousness. They will reap what they sow. Grace will be given alongside truth.

Matthew 5:16

¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

By the good works we do, unbelievers will see and give glory to God.

2) Pleasing God in every way.

Colossians 1:10

that you may walk worthy of the Lord, **fully pleasing *Him***, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

There are three ways to please God.

i) Obedience.

²¹When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. ²²And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”

Jesus was obedient to the Father, even unto death. If you have been flirting with pornography, it's time to draw the line – stop now and go no further. As an obedient husband and a submissive wife, walk as one flesh and do not stumble your children. Honor your parents. What is it that you need to obey the Lord this year?

ii) Faith

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

God knows our needs but He responds to faith. The counsel to the church in Laodicea is to buy gold refined in fire. Our faith is more precious than gold. The impurities are removed by fire. What is not of God, not of His will and not the ways of the Holy Spirit is an impurity that is to be burnt. Our beliefs are to be re-examined as some are ungodly.

iii) Worship

John 4:23-24

²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Worship pleases the Lord. Our thanksgiving, praise and worship mean a lot to God. Don't trivialize your coming to a worship service. You can come to a worship service yet fail to connect with the God of the worship service. This year, purpose to be punctual for service and take personal responsibility for your own growth. If we do not let the Prime Minister wait for us at the National Day Parade, then we should not let God wait for us at our services.

3) A life that bears fruit in every good work.

i) The person we are becoming

Romans 8:29

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Basically, it is about growing in Christlikeness, as a son and daughter of God. This is only possible if we are intentional and working at it.

Matthew 16:24-27

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

When we deny ourselves from taking revenge, from keeping records of wrongs, we are doing works. Salvation is by grace but works are rewarded. When we are slandered, accused, having unreasonable moments with our children or stubborn colleague but choose to deny ourselves and manifest Christlikeness, we will be rewarded.

ii) Purpose

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

We are saved to do good works, to bless another life. Senior Pastor Dan shared about someone whose life was changed when his best friend was killed. He found God and there are now spiritual mentors pouring into his and other similar at-risk teens struggling with issues of life.

We please the Lord as we bear fruit in doing good. Jesus goes about doing good, healing the sick, preaching the good news and casting our demons. What are we doing?

Acts 10:38

³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Senior Pastor Dan related the story of a pastor who was invited to a Bible College. In addressing the faculty, the pastor asked if anyone have ever led someone to Christ. Only one hand was raised. He asked how many ever led a church. No hand was raised. To the question, "How many was instrumental to cast out demons, heal the sick," no hand was raised. Then he asked them why were they even teaching in Bible College?

Are we influencing others with our lives? Involvement makes a difference. We can only give of what we have. When we walk with God, we will serve God but there are people who serve without walking with God. What would we do this year that we didn't do last year? Our ministry may be in the marketplace. What would you do differently this year?

4) A life that grows in the knowledge of God.

Colossians 1:10

¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and **increasing in the knowledge of God;**

A new believer didn't know that buying 4-D is wrong. As she grew, she became convicted and has since stopped. An insurance agent used to meet her clients on Sunday until she was convicted and changed her schedules so as to have time with God.

2 Pet 3:18

¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

A young adult learned to walk as priest and king. He prayed for a relative with pain in the neck and the person was healed. He prayed for a friend with eye problems and the person was also healed. Another who attended the New Disciples' Track learned about Proverbs 3:5 – to trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. He journeyed with his son who was having financial problems. He prayed and experienced God coming true for him and his son. Knowing God is experiential.

Philippians 3:10

¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

In the verse above, Paul is talking about a continual expression of faith in God. He is building faith convictions. What are some faith convictions? Examples are:

“I will always be provided for.”

“I will always have divine wisdom.”

We’ve got to come to the end of ourselves and let God top up what we lack. We need to turn to Him. What are we struggling with? Is it work, career, etc? We may not know when the breakthrough will happen but we’ve got to hold on and press on. He is our peace.

A young man shared that his wife’s prayer-life has changed from one of worry to thanksgiving, praise and worship. After praying about wisdom, an idea would drop into her mind and so forth.

What is it we need? It is in the “I Am.” There is no fear as we are perfected in the love of God. This is conviction building. God plus me is a majority. If God is for me, who can be against me?

5) A life with supernatural strength to endure to finish well.

Colossians 1:11

strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

This is not the kind of fireworks that last for a few minutes. It is not like the wedding day which comes and goes but the marriage which lasts a life-time.

Romans 5:3-5

³ And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

We know of believers who only thrive when things are well but will drop out when things are not well. Their faith is when God is their Santa Claus. There is the need for us to endure to finish well.

6) A life of gratefulness

Colossians 1:12

¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

1 Thess 5:18

¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

A cell leader shared about God’s protection of her daughter. At the place where his daughter used to sleep, the painting that was hung above her had dropped. Thankfully, it missed her and in fact, she was oblivious to it. Another leader shared about the fire that was burning at the floor above her. Someone had forgotten to turn off the stove and the place caught fire. It was a neighbour who alerted her to the fire and she was spared. In all of these, remember to give thanks.

Jesus said that when we abide in Him, we will grow.

Summary

The marks of a disciple are as follow:

- 1) A life walk that is worthy of the Lord
- 2) Pleasing God in every way.
- 3) A life that bears fruit in every good work.
- 4) A life that grows in the knowledge of God.
- 5) A life with supernatural strength to endure to finish well.
- 6) A life of gratefulness.

End.

Questions for discussion

1) What does it mean to be walking worthy of the Lord? How do we know we are having the Father's delight?

2) How do we please God? What are some things mentioned in the Bible that talk about God being pleased?

3) Good works are amongst the marks of a disciple. What are some good works that you can do?

4) A disciple is someone who continues to grow in the knowledge of God. What are some areas that you may want to pursue with regards to knowing God more? E.g. attending a course, making devotion your priority, having a bible reading program, etc.

5) Philippians 3:10 talks about the power of His resurrection. Share your experience of His power at work in your life.

6) A disciple ought to be grateful. What are some things that you can give thanks to God?