

Our Mission

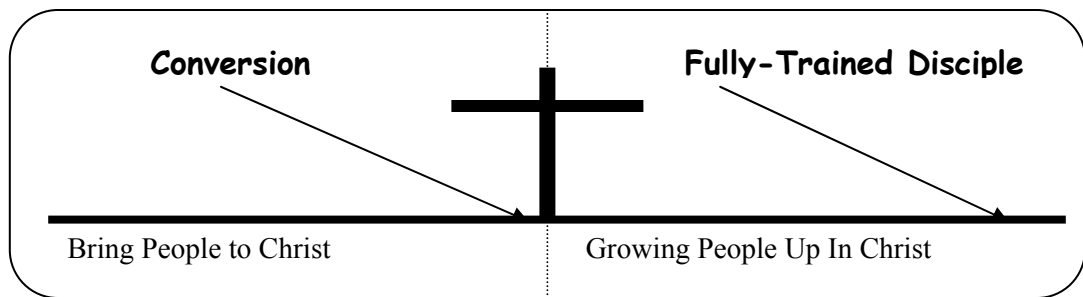
Matthew 28:19-20 “Going, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The Process: Going

One Command: Make disciples

Two Verbs:

1. Baptizing
2. Teaching them to obey



The Goal Of Our Instruction

One of the 7 deadly sins of Christian education is not being clear about what our objective and direction.

Ezekiel 36:26,27 “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”

Matthew 28:19-20 “Therefore 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.”

1 Peter 1:15, 16 “But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

Romans 12:2 “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Colossians 1:28,29 “We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.”

Galatians 4:19 “My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you”

This is His primary concern. Character before career. Maturity before ministry. Church purity before church growth.

Our goal of our instruction is not *instruction* but *transformation* into the *likeness* of Jesus Christ. ***Our goal is to become the person that God dreams of.***

The Biblical Challenge to Grow

2 Corinthians 10:15

1 Peter 2:2

2 Peter 3:18

Ephesians 4:16

(Jude 20; 1 Thess 5:11; Ephesians 2:22; 4:16)

We are being perfected:

Galatians 3:3

2 Corinthians 3:18 “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

How Are We To Measure Spiritual Growth?

“The possibility that we may have the wrong goal is the greatest problem in Christian education in both our seminaries and our churches. If we make doctrine or knowledge an end in itself we will distort the very purpose for which it was intended. Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind’ ... And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ... Proper biblical instruction should result in all of us falling in love with God and each other.”

1 Timothy 1:5 “But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

Hebrews 5:12-14 “In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

The greatest evidence that you are a Christian is not your *knowledge*.

The greatest evidence that you are a Christian is *love*, not what you *know*.

Maturity = *truth* applied *consistently* over time.

(See also: Matthew 7:24-27; John 14:15,21; 15:7; 1 John 2:4-6)

The Word of God is not to be intellectually discussed without personal application for life change.