

Loris First Baptist Church
“Twelve Marks of a Mature Disciple of Christ”

TEST THREE OF DISCIPLESHIP MATURITY

Relationship #3 - “Who Is My Mentor?”

A careful study of the transformation of the Apostle Paul, from a brand new Christian (Acts 9) into a mature disciple of Jesus Christ (Acts 28), reveals that there were six key relationships he maintained which contributed significantly to his spiritual growth. The failure for a Christian to have and work on these relationships will severely hinder his or her ability to become Christ-like as has been commanded by The Word of God (Luke 6:40; Matthew 16:24; 1Peter 2:21; 1John 2:3-6).

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to be “like” Him (Matthew 10:25) and “imitate” Him (Ephesians 5:1-2). To accomplish these very difficult goals, God sends special teachers into our lives to demonstrate, proclaim, interpret, and model the various essentials of the disciple life to help us progress and to hold us accountable to become more like Christ. The twelve apostles had Jesus as their “mentor” (Matthew 13:34-43; Luke 11:1-4). Paul had Barnabas as a “mentor” (Acts 9:27; Acts 11:25-26). Timothy had Paul as a “mentor” (Acts 16:3-4; 2Timothy 1:3-8). God sends every disciple of His many kinds of mentors “to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (Ephesians 4:11-12). Every mature disciples of Jesus Christ can name at least one or more “mentors” that have helped them learn the Word of God and/or how to apply it to his life so that he becomes more Christ-like. So, “Who is Your Mentor?”

Directions: Please circle the number that best represents how you would rate yourself in response to each of the 12 questions and corresponding Scripture provided.

Scripture #1: *“MY SHEEP hear MY VOICE, and I know them, and THEY FOLLOW ME.” (John 10:27)*

Question #1: I understand that I belong to Jesus Christ and He has called me out of the chaos of the world to “follow Him” and not my own (or anyone else’s) chosen path.

Disagree (I don’t understand this)	Agree (I understand, but struggle to follow Him)	Strongly Agree (I understand and follow Him daily)				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #2: "Come, FOLLOW ME," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19)

"A DISCIPLE is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained WILL BE LIKE HIS TEACHER." (Luke 6:40)

Question #2: As a follower of Jesus Christ, I know that God's goal for me is to be like Jesus and so I need someone to help train me.

Not Sure (I am not sure I need a Mentor)		Kind of Agree (I might benefit from a Mentor)			Strongly Agree (I know I need a Mentor)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #3: *One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, TEACH US TO PRAY, just as John taught his disciples." (Luke 11:1)*

(Jesus said) "This, then, IS HOW YOU SHOULD PRAY..." (Matthew 6:9)

Question #3: It is beneficial for new or untrained believers to learn how to be good disciples of Jesus Christ from mature believers. Faithful Christians who know how to pray, study the bible, use their spiritual gifts, do devotions, etc., etc., can teach new believers just like Jesus did.

Not Sure (I think I can learn better on my own)		Kind of Sure (I think so, but not totally necessary)			Positive (I am very sure of this)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #4: *Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, THOUGH HE KNEW ONLY THE BAPTISM OF JOHN. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and EXPLAINED TO HIM THE WAY OF GOD MORE ADEQUATELY. (Acts 18:24-26)*

Question #4: I know that no matter how much I have learned as a child of God, there is more that can be learned from those who have even more knowledge and wisdom than I have.

Not Sure (I think I can learn better on my own)		Kind of Sure (I think so, but not totally necessary)			Positive (I am very sure of this)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #5: *It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, TO PREPARE GOD'S PEOPLE FOR WORKS OF SERVICE, so that the body of Christ may be built up (Ephesians 4:11-12)*

Question #5: I know that God has spiritually gifted some of His children to help teach and mentor me so that I can grow in the faith and be properly prepared to do ministry within the kingdom of God.

Not Sure (I think I can learn to minister on my own)		Kind of Sure (I think so, but not totally necessary)			Positive (I am very sure of this)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #6: *Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ...Then Barnabas went to Tarsus TO LOOK FOR SAUL, and when he found him, HE BROUGHT HIM TO ANTIOCH. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and TAUGHT GREAT NUMBERS OF PEOPLE. (Acts 11:20-26)*

Question #6: I have someone who has chosen to teach me how to do ministry in the kingdom of God just like Paul had Barnabas.

No (I have never been mentored)		Sometimes (I have been mentored sporadically)			Yes (I have a Mentor currently helping me)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #7: *Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, THOUGH HE KNEW ONLY THE BAPTISM OF JOHN. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and EXPLAINED TO HIM THE WAY OF GOD MORE ADEQUATELY. (Acts 18:24-26)*

Question #7: I know that no matter how much I have learned as a child of God, there is more that can be learned from those who have even more knowledge and wisdom than I have.

Not Sure (I don't need other's wisdom)		Kind of Sure (There is some wisdom to be learned from others)			Positive (Wisdom is best gained from others)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #8: HUMBLE YOURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD, and He will lift you up. (James 4:10)

Question #8: I have humbled myself and let a more mature believer mentor me so that it would increase my effectiveness in future ministry.

Not Very Often (I have a hard time learning from others)		Usually (I sometimes try to learn from others)			Almost Always (I am always willing to be taught by others)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #9: "When Jesus had finished speaking, He said to Simon, 'PUT OUT INTO DEEP WATER, AND LET DOWN THE NETS FOR A CATCH.' Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. BUT BECAUSE YOU SAY SO, I will let down the nets.' When they had done so, THEY CAUGHT A LARGE NUMBER OF FISH that their nets began to break." (Luke 5:4-6)

Question #9: I have a teachable spirit. I am willing to attempt to apply what more mature Christians are trying to teach me even if I don't always think it will work.

Not Very Often (I struggle with being teachable)		Usually (I can be teachable at times)			Almost Always (I have a teachable spirit)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #10: Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" SO HE INVITED PHILIP TO COME UP AND SIT WITH HIM. (Acts 8:30-31)

Question #10: I have someone I can go to (at just about any time I need to) who will take the time to explain the scriptures to me when I am reading something in the Bible I don't understand.

Not Really (I just pass over Scripture I don't understand)		Kind of (I don't have a Mentor, but I seek help)			Yes (I have a Mentor to understand the Bible)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #11: "So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. ELISHA THEN LEFT HIS OXEN AND RAN AFTER ELIJAH. 'Let me kiss my father and mother good-by,' he said, 'and then I will come with you.' 'Go back,' Elijah replied. 'What have I done to you?' So Elisha left him and went back. HE TOOK HIS YOKE AND OXEN AND SLAUGHTERED THEM. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. THEN HE SET OUT TO FOLLOW ELIJAH AND BECOME HIS ATTENDANT." (1 Kings 19:19-21)

Question #11: I understand that in order for me to be mentored, I have to be committed to being available to be taught by my mentor. I am quick to make changes to my routine schedules so that I can learn how to be Christ-like and minister in Jesus' name.

Not Very Often (I am rarely committed or available)		Sometimes (I sometimes committed to being mentored)			Almost Always (I am very committed to being mentored)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #12: He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, WHERE A DISCIPLE NAMED TIMOTHY LIVED, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. PAUL WANTED TO TAKE HIM ALONG ON THE JOURNEY, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. (Acts 16:1-3)

Therefore I URGE YOU TO IMITATE ME. For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of MY WAY OF LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church. (1 Corinthians 4:16-17)

Question #12: I have a mentor who lives a faithful life in Christ Jesus that I am trying to imitate.

Not Very Often (I am rarely in fellowship with Jesus)		Usually (I am trying to, but need to improve)			Almost Always (I am normally in fellowship with Jesus)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

How to Grade Yourself on “Who Is My Mentor”?

- 1) Add up all of the numbers you circled for the 12 questions above. (Max score “84”).
- 2) Compare your scores to the scales below and take action as the Lord leads you:

84 – 56 *You have a “Good Mentor/Mentors” who are helping you on a regular basis to follow and act like Jesus Christ!*

55 – 29 *You are only sporadically being Mentored by someone and are not currently in an established Mentor/Disciple relationship with a more mature Christian than you. You need to pray and ask God to help provide the right spiritual teacher and model for you at this time of your life to magnify your growth in Christ. (1 John 5:14-15)*

28-7 *Are you sure you are a disciple of Jesus Christ? If you know that you are, it is critical that you “humble yourself”, “become committed to being discipled”, and seek to be “discipled” by more mature Christians so that you learn how to allow the Holy Spirit to control your life so that you resist sin, exhibit the fruits of the Spirit, and walk and act like Jesus Christ! (1 Corinthians 3:1-3)*