

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

TEST SIX OF DISCIPLESHIP MATURITY

Relationship #6 - “Where Is Your Macedonia?”

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). We know from the gospels that Jesus was “full of the Holy Spirit” (Luke 4:1) and always “led by the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 4:1). That’s why God’s Word tells believers to strive to be “filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18) and that God’s children are to be “led by the Spirit” (Romans 8:14). To be “led by the Spirit” requires us to follow His leading in spite of what we may “prefer” or “think” is the best thing for us to do (Proverbs 3:5-6). The apostle Paul learned this lesson when, in an effort to serve the Lord, thought that it would be best for him and his ministry team to take the gospel East to Mysia (Acts 16:7). However, the Holy Spirit revealed to Paul that God’s desire was for him to take the gospel West to “Macedonia” (Acts 16:9). Paul obeyed this “urging of the Holy Spirit” and the result was many came to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ (Acts 16-18) and the gospel spread throughout what we now know is Europe. Like Paul, God has also gifted each of us (1Corinthians 12) to contribute to the expansion of the kingdom of God on earth AND commanded us to use our gifts to minister to wherever He may send us (Acts 1:8). All of us have been called by God to serve Him and “go” with His power to minister to others outside of our comfort zones (Matthew 28:19-20). So, “Where is Your Macedonia?”

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: “...Be filled with the Spirit...” (Ephesians 5:18)

Question #1: I know what it means to be filled with the Spirit and I keep filled daily so that He can lead me to do whatever ministry He may call me to do.

Disagree (I don’t understand how to be filled)	Agree (I understand how to be filled with the Spirit)	Strongly Agree (I am constantly filled with the Spirit)
1	2	3
	4	5
		6
		7

Scripture #2: *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)*

Question #2: I have learned how to trust the leadership of God in my life. Even if He is leading me to do ministry that does not initially make sense to me “or” make me feel “comfortable”, I obey because I know that it is His Spirit that is given me instructions on how to serve Him at any given time.

Not Me (I can't tell if the Spirit is leading me or not)		Kind of Agree (I try to minister as I sense needs)			Strongly Agree (I minister in accordance with the Spirit's leading)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #3: *The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ...Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. (1 Corinthians 12:12-15)*

Question #3: I understand the although not all believers have the same “gifting” and “abilities” through the Holy Spirit, all of us are to be a part of Christ’s work on this earth and all of us should be doing ministry in His name based on His calling.

Not Sure (I am not sure of my gifts or calling)		Kind of Agree (I am ministering where I think God wants me)			Strongly Agree (I am doing ministry with my gifts)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #4: *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)*

Question #4: I know that God has created me and saved me to do ministry where and when He wants me to based on His divine plan for my life.

Not Really (I am not active in ministry)		Kind of Agree (I serve, but not sure if it is where He wants)			Strongly Agree (I know my ministry is based on His plan)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #5: I AM OBLIGATED both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome. (Romans 1:14-15)

Question #5: Because God saved me by His grace, I feel an obligation to serve Him and minister to anyone wherever He desires.

Don't Agree (I don't feel obligated to witness) Kind of Agree (I share the gospel when & where I feel like it) Strongly Agree (I will share the gospel wherever God leads)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Scripture #6: Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; He can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does." (John 5:19)

Question #6: I understand that to be Christ-like means that I do not choose for myself how I want to minister, to whom I minister to, or where I would like to minister. Instead, I am to choose my ministry based on God's leadership in my life as I submit myself to Him.

Don't Agree (I choose where I want to serve) Kind of Agree (I think I am doing what God wants me to) Strongly Agree (I am doing the exact ministry God appointed)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Scripture #7: When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, BUT THE SPIRIT OF JESUS WOULD NOT LET THEM. (Acts 16:7)

Question #7: As a follower of Jesus Christ, I accept the fact that I may want to share the gospel with someone or minister somewhere, but God keeps that from happening because He has someone else in mind for me to share with or minister to in a totally different place.

Not Really (I am not always willing to serve Him) Kind of Agree (I will serve, but I prefer to pick the place) Strongly Agree (I am willing to go wherever God sends me)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Scripture #8: *So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. (Acts 16:8-10)*

Question #8: When the Holy Spirit reveals to me a ministry opportunity that He wants me to be involved in, I obey and participate in that ministry with the gifts God has given me.

Not Really (I haven't been led by the Spirit)		Kind of Agree (I try to serve where I think the Lord wants me to)			Strongly Agree (This has happened to me many times)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #9: *Each one should use whatever gift he has received TO SERVE OTHERS, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:10-11)*

Question #9: I am using the gifts and strength God has given me in a ministry (or in several ministries) in a manner that is bringing glory to God.

Not Really (I am not serving with my gifts to His glory)		Kind of Agree (I am serving and trying to glorify God)			Strongly Agree (I am very involved in ministry to glorify God)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #10: *During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." (Acts 16:9)*

"...He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. WE ARE THEREFORE CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians 5:19-20)

Question #10: I am involved in a "Macedonian"-like ministry to help people be reconciled to Jesus Christ.

Don't Agree (I don't have a Christian ministry)		Kind of Agree (I have a Christian ministry, but don't witness)			Strongly Agree (My ministry leads me to share the gospel)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #11: *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy OF THE CALLING YOU HAVE RECEIVED. (Ephesians 4:1)*

Question #11: As a follower of Christ, I am trying to live a serve the Lord in a manner worthy of the Macedonia “calling” I have received from Him...just like Paul did.

Don't Agree (I am unaware of a calling)		Kind of Agree (I am serving, but not sure if it is based on calling)			Strongly Agree (I know I am called and serving Him)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #12: *"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! YOU HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' (Matthew 25:23)*

Question #12: I used my God-given spiritual gifts to serve Him in accordance with the opportunities God provided for me. So, I am prepared to be judged by God according to my faithful service.

Don't Agree (I am NOT ready to be judged)		Kind of Agree (I am serving, but not sure if I have done enough)			Strongly Agree (I am faithful and ready to meet Him)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

How to Grade Yourself on “Where is Your Macedonia”?

- 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 are being obedient to God’s plan for you by serving the Lord based on His “calling” and the “gifts” and “abilities” He has given you!*

55 – 29 *You are attending church and serving the Lord, but you are either not sure of how to serve according to your “giftedness” and/or “calling”. You tend to serve God when, where, and how you choose to...not based on His leadership. You need to pray and to ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit and lead you to do ministry in accordance with His will not your own. (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 “become obedient”, start serving others for Christ in accordance with how He has “gifted you” and “where” He has called you. (Matthew 25:24-30)*