## Loris First Baptist Church "Twelve Marks of a Mature Disciple of Christ"

## TEST FIVE OF DISCIPLESHIP MATURITY

## Relationship #5 - "Who Is Your Antioch?"

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 has established His church (Matthew 16:18b) so that believers can gather together for things such as discipleship (Acts 2:42), prayer (Acts 4:24-31), sharing (Acts 4:34-35), protection (Acts 9:28-30), and encouraging (Hebrews 10:24-25). Becoming Christ-like cannot be accomplished alone. It requires participating in a community of believers who can help you learn what the Bible says, while also holding you accountable to practice what you have learned (Galatians 2:11-15). Paul had a community of believers like the church in Antioch to help him learn and exercise his spiritual gifts (Acts 11:25-26), as well as discern God's will for his life (Acts 13:1-3). Paul became a great apostle and servant of God because he had many loving friends that encouraged him and supported him along the way (Romans 16:3-13; Philippians 2:25-30, 4:14-18; 2Timothy 4:9-13). So, "Who is Your Antioch?"

Disagree Agree Strongly Agree (I don't understand or agree with this) (I understand, but don't meet often with others) (I regularly meet with other believers)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Scripture #2:	"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, <u>BRING THEM UP IN THE TRAINING</u> <u>AND INSTRUCTION OF THE LORD</u> ." (Ephesians 6:4)						
	"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, <u>WHICH FIRST LIVED IN YOUR</u> <u>GRANDMOTHER LOIS AND IN YOUR MOTHER EUNICE</u> and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also." (2Timothy 1:5)						
Question #2:	God intended the "family unit" we are currently in to be a "community of believers" who help us and encourage us to become like Christ. I work hard within my family at home to help it be a place where all members are discipled, loved, and protected as we strive to imitate Christ.						
(My home is no	Not Me t a Christian environment)		d of Agree ome share my faith	h) (My family	Strongly Agr y is a great Christi	ee an support group)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
******	********	*******	*******	*******	******	*****	
Scripture #3:	Jesus <u>TOOK THE TWEI</u> everything that is written			_	~ .		
Question #3:	I understand the although some of the Word of God can be learned from a sermon preached to a large crowd, real Christ-like learning and discipleship comes from participating in a smaller group such as a Sunday School Class, a Discipleship Class, or even a Home Group.						
(I prefer learn	Not Sure ning God's Word alone) (I kr		l of Agree ok for a good small	group) (I am a	Strongly Agr member of a good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
******	********	*******	<***********	*******	******	*****	
Scripture #4:	"And I tell you that you of Hades will not overco			WILL BUILD	MY CHURCH,	and the gates	
Question #4:	As a follower of Jesus C protection as a Christian		-	•		th and	
(I am not sur	Not Sure not sure I need attend church) (I k		Kind of Agree know I should look for a church)		Strongly Agree (I am a member of a good church)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
*****	*******	******	*******	*******	******	*****	

(1Corinthians 12:4-7)

are only useful as they are practiced within the church God draws us to.								
Not Me (I don't have a church I belong to) (I		(I have a churc	Kind of Agree (I have a church, but I haven't used my gifts yet)			Strongly Agree (I use my spiritual gifts in my church)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
********	*******	******	******	******	******	******		
Scripture #6:	THEY DEVOTED of bread and to pro		_	'es' teaching a	and to the fellow	ship, to the breaking		
Question #6:	In order to become in all the ministries			oe, I do not jus	st attend church	I fully participate		
No (I don't attend very often)		(I attend	Sometimes (I attend worship services regularly)			Yes (I am very active in my church)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
*******	*********	******	******	******	******	******		
Scripture #7:	All the believers we goods, they gave to	-	•	•	on. Selling their	possessions and		
Question #7: I know that one of the great benefits of belonging to a good community of believers is that the members of the community are there to love and help one another, especially those who are in great need. Sharing with others in my church helps me be more Christ-like.								
	Oon't Agree nelp, nor do I help others	s) (I have been	Agree (I have been helped by others in my church)			Strongly Agree (I have helped others in my church)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
******	*******	******	*****	*****	******	******		

Scripture #5: There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but

Question #5: I know that every believer has been given at least one spiritual gift by the Holy Spirit to help the

the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given <u>FOR THE COMMON GOOD</u>.

church (a community of believers) accomplish God's Will for that church. These spiritual gifts

Scripture #8: While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, <u>THEY PLACED THEIR HANDS ON THEM AND SENT THEM OFF</u> . (Acts 13:2-3)							
Question #8: I am a member of a group of believers who help me discern the will of God for my life and encourage me to do even the "difficult tasks" the Lord has called me to do.							
	n't Agree any group of believers)		Agree Bible study group	) (My group	Strongly Agree (My group helps me know and do God's will)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
*******	*******	*****	******	******	******	******	
Scripture #9: As you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, <u>YOU SENT ME AID AGAIN AND AGAIN</u> when I was in need. (Philippians 4:15-16)							
Question #9: When you participate in the life of a community of believers, you have the opportunities and privilege of helping others accomplish their Christ given tasks.							
	a't Agree any group of believers)		Agree Bible study group	) (I regularly	Strongly Ag help others accor	ree mplish God's will)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
*****************************							
Scripture #10:	Though one may be one not quickly broken. (I			themselves. A	cord of three s	trands is	
Question #10:	I know that it is dang group of believers wh a disciple of Jesus Ch	no love me and				•	
	a't Agree any group of believers) (I a		d of Agree hurch knows wher	n I struggle)(My g	Strongly Aggroup really know		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

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Scripture #11:

the wrong. (Galatians 2:11)

Question #11:	When either I other enough t		ny support grou hold each other	-			
	Very Often ip about each other	) (We sometime	Sometimes s bring up ways to	behave better)		: Always other accountable)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
********** Scripture #12:	Therefore <u>I UI</u> my son whom	RGE YOU TO I I love, who is fa RIST, which ag	<u>MITATE ME</u> . F	or this reason rd. <u>He will ren</u>	I am sending to	WAY OF LIFE	
Question #12:		-	y of believers w e life amongst or	-	ople who love	me and model for	
	ot Really ticipate in groups)	(I am in a group,	Kind of , but most are imm	ature Christians)		es entors in my group)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
		Iow to Grade Y	Yourself on "W	ho Is Your A	ntioch"?	**************************************	
2	) Compare your	r scores to the s	cales below and	l take action as	the Lord leads	you:	
<ul> <li>You are being obedient to God's plan for you by attending church in and "meeting with" other mature believers to help you and them fol act like Jesus Christ!</li> <li>You are only sporadically attending church and/or participating in discipleship group (i.e. like a Sunday School Class!). You are trying of your spiritual growth alone, which is not part of God's plan. You pray and ask God to lead you to a group of mature believers to help become more like Christ. (1 John 5:14-15)</li> </ul>							
						re trying to do a lo lan. You need to	
	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 attending church regularly and find a group of mature believers to help you become more like Christ. (Hebrews 10:24-25)					

When Peter came to Antioch, <u>I OPPOSED HIM TO HIS FACE</u>, because he was clearly in