

# The Discipleship Wheel

Where Real Faith Meets Real Life [Honk if you follow Jesus]

## I. What IS discipleship?

- a. A disciple is one who is all of the following:
  - i. A pupil [who learns at the feet of a teacher]
  - ii. An apprentice [who acquires a skill from a craftsman]
  - iii. A follower [who submits to a leader]
- b. Disciple is the word Jesus preferred.
  - i. "...you are My disciples, if you love one another."<sup>1</sup>
  - ii. "Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple."<sup>2</sup>
    1. Discipleship is determined by certain practices
    2. Disciples are measured by specific behaviors
  - iii. "Go...make disciples...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."<sup>3</sup>
    1. Disciples are meant to make more disciples.
- c. "Disciples" is what **Jesus'** tribe was called
  - i. When Jesus called the first members of His core team, Matthew 4:19 was His three-fold recruitment strategy.
    1. **"Come, follow Me..."**
      - a. Choosing **Jesus** involves a change of your mind *and* will.
      - b. To become a disciple begins in the **HEAD**,<sup>4</sup> and requires a willful decision.
    2. **"...and I will make you..."**

---

<sup>1</sup> John 13:35

<sup>2</sup> Luke 14:27

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 28:19-20a

<sup>4</sup> 

## The Discipleship Wheel

Where Real Faith Meets Real Life [Honk if you follow Jesus]

- a. Following **Jesus** will transform you into something other than what you are now.
  - b. *"If you follow Him, there will be a change; YOU will change."*
  - c. To continue as a disciple includes the **HEART**,<sup>5</sup> as you begin to look like, live like and love like Jesus.
    - i. Look like Jesus [Romans 8:29]
    - ii. Live like Jesus [Matthew 16:24]
    - iii. Love like Jesus [John 13:35]
3. **"...fishers of men."**
- a. Becoming like Jesus requires you to embrace a change in your life's purpose.
  - b. To be a mature disciple necessitates the **HAND**,<sup>6</sup> as you use your gifts, skills and passions to make other disciples who will also make more disciples.

## II. How can we know when disciples get to "fully mature"?

### a. Some important clarifications about discipleship [Myths]

- i. Discipleship is a process [not an instantaneous event]



5



6

## The Discipleship Wheel

Where Real Faith Meets Real Life [Honk if you follow Jesus]

1. "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."<sup>7</sup>
- ii. Discipleship involves seasons [See Genesis 8:22]
- iii. Discipleship has no silver bullet [there is no "one right way"]
- iv. Discipleship is relational [We cannot disciple in a way other than Jesus and expect the results He had]
  1. "May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains."<sup>8</sup>
  2. There are 58 "one another" passages in the New Testament.
  3. Disciples cannot grow apart from the church. We grow in community.
- v. Discipleship is not about speed or time served
- vi. Discipleship is not about content or curriculum [information alone can't create a fully mature disciple]
  1. There is no one book you can read or class you can take.
  2. Information alone cannot create fully mature believers— just smart ones.
- vii. Discipleship is intentional [we are as close to God as we choose to be]
- viii. The church must provide a pathway that disciples know they can follow.
  1. The ball in the net for *The Crossroads* and the reason we exist: "To present everyone fully mature in Christ."<sup>9</sup>
  2. We exist to help "everyone" understand where they are right now— so that "everyone" can know the next steps they must take.

---

<sup>7</sup> 2 Corinthians 3:18

<sup>8</sup> II Timothy 1:16

<sup>9</sup> Colossians 1:28

## The Discipleship Wheel

*Where Real Faith Meets Real Life [Honk if you follow Jesus]*

- a. "Everyone" has a next step.
  - b. We can't make you take your next step— but we can show you the pathway.
- b. Here is the tool we use to show the process, provide a pathway, and to serve those who want to be Jesus' disciples.<sup>10</sup>

### i. There are **SIX STAGES** in discipleship<sup>11</sup>:

1. Everyone who becomes a disciple starts out **DEAD**.<sup>12</sup>
  - a. "...you were dead in your sins...God made you alive."<sup>13</sup>
  - b. "God...made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions."<sup>14</sup>
  - c. In this stage, a pre-conversion disciple has not yet received Jesus as Lord and Savior.
  - d. A "not yet alive" disciple may:
    - i. ...completely reject God
    - ii. ...be seeking God
    - iii. ...claim to know God
    - iv. ...identify themselves as very spiritual
2. The disciple begins their journey by being **BORN**.<sup>15</sup>
  - a. "Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.'"<sup>16</sup>
  - b. "...to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become the children of God...born of God."<sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>10</sup> THE DISCIPLESHIP WHEEL [I envision this as a tire on the outside edge, to reflect our "road" theme.

<sup>11</sup> Show empty WHEEL

<sup>12</sup> Show the WHEEL with Dead identified — with Scriptures in first slide, then statement about the stage.

<sup>13</sup> Colossians 2:13

<sup>14</sup> Ephesians 2:4b-5

<sup>15</sup> Show WHEEL with BORN identified [continue to show DEAD]— Scriptures in first slide, then definition of stage.

<sup>16</sup> John 3:3

<sup>17</sup> John 1:12

## The Discipleship Wheel

*Where Real Faith Meets Real Life* [Honk if you follow Jesus]

- c. In this stage, a newly born disciple repents [changes his mind and will], confesses faith in Jesus, and is baptized into Christ.<sup>18</sup>
3. The disciple is now an **INFANT**.<sup>19</sup>
  - a. “Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly— mere infants in Christ.”<sup>20</sup>
  - b. “Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with teaching about righteousness.”<sup>21</sup>
  - c. “Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.”<sup>22</sup>
  - d. In this stage, the disciple is alive but dependent, having not yet matured beyond his initial moment of faith.
4. The disciple is learning to walk and has become a **CHILD**.<sup>23</sup>
  - a. “...we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.”<sup>24</sup>
  - b. “Brothers, stop thinking like children.”<sup>25</sup>
  - c. In this stage, the disciple is growing in their relationship with Christ and allowing others to walk beside them as they follow.
5. The disciple is now taking responsibility for their own journey and is becoming a **YOUNG ADULT**.<sup>26</sup>
  - a. “...we will in all things grow up into Him.”<sup>27</sup>

---

<sup>18</sup> See Acts 2:38 and Romans 10:9

<sup>19</sup> Show WHEEL with Infant identified [continue to show Dead/Born]— Scriptures in first slide, then definition of stage.

<sup>20</sup> I Corinthians 3:1

<sup>21</sup> Hebrews 5:13

<sup>22</sup> I Peter 2:2

<sup>23</sup> Show WHEEL with Child identified [continue to show the others]— Scriptures in first slide, then definition of stage.

<sup>24</sup> I Thessalonians 2:7

<sup>25</sup> I Corinthians 14:20

<sup>26</sup> Show WHEEL with Young Adult ID'd [continue to show the others]— Scriptures in first slide, then definition of stage.

<sup>27</sup> Ephesians 4:15

## The Discipleship Wheel

*Where Real Faith Meets Real Life* [Honk if you follow Jesus]

- b. "...until we all reach unity in the faith...and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."<sup>28</sup>
  - c. "...that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured."<sup>29</sup>
  - d. In this stage, the disciple is zealous and idealistic, becoming more others-centered and less self-centered.
6. The disciple is intentionally taking others along and has now become a **PARENT**.<sup>30</sup>
- a. "You learned it from Epaphras...who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf..."<sup>31</sup>
  - b. "...as you hold out the word of life...that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing."<sup>32</sup>
  - c. "For Christ's love compels us..."<sup>33</sup>
  - d. "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."<sup>34</sup>
  - e. In this stage, the disciple is reproducing other disciples by inviting them to follow them as they follow Christ.<sup>35</sup>

## ii. How can we help disciples navigate this process?<sup>36</sup>

1. We must understand that the church has a role, God has a role, and the disciple has a role.

---

<sup>28</sup> Ephesians 4:13

<sup>29</sup> Colossians 4:12

<sup>30</sup> Show WHEEL with PARENT identified [continue to show the others]— Scriptures in first slide, then definition of stage.

<sup>31</sup> Colossians 1:7

<sup>32</sup> Philippians 2:6

<sup>33</sup> II Corinthians 5:14

<sup>34</sup> I Corinthians 11:1

<sup>35</sup> 1 Corinthians 11:1 "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

<sup>36</sup> Show WHEEL with basic 6 stages— added a ring at the core for the disciple's role, one in the middle for the discipler's role, & along the outside perimeter for God's role. These should be different colors— with each function shown on each of three slides showing responsibilities. Perhaps they are shaded lightly so that as we add layers, they don't get lost.

## The Discipleship Wheel

*Where Real Faith Meets Real Life [Honk if you follow Jesus]*

- a. The discipler's role: *To come alongside and serve the disciple as they seek to grow.*
  - b. God role: *Living as a disciple isn't about you doing big things for God, it's about God doing big things through you.*
    - i. Jesus said that He will build His church.<sup>37</sup>
    - ii. The church plays a vital role, but we can't make anybody get serious about following.
  - c. Every disciple's role: *To make it our ambition to become "fully mature."*
    - i. We won't fully get there until glory.
    - ii. But we must not be content until we look like Christ.
2. The church [as discipler] must serve the disciple's needs [as they alert us to which stage they are at] and trust God to transform their heart. **{gotta want it!}**
- a. The disciple alerts us to their need via **Traits of the Stage** and **Phrases from the Stage**.<sup>38</sup>
    - i. DEAD
      1. **Traits** of the Stage
        - a. They are unbelieving and/or rebellious.
        - b. They are broken [aware or unaware].
        - c. They are lost and don't know it.
        - d. They are living out their feelings.
      2. **Phrases** from the Stage
        - a. *"I believe there are many ways to Heaven."*

---

<sup>37</sup> Matthew 16:18

<sup>38</sup> See other diagram for example of how to show this, using the Definitions, Traits and Phrases that are consistent throughout this document. I especially like the stick people...want to use it in some way.

## The Discipleship Wheel

Where Real Faith Meets Real Life [Honk if you follow Jesus]

- b. "I'm a good person."
- c. "There might be a higher power."
- d. "I'm too busy for a small group."

### 3. **Definition** for the Stage

- a. In this stage, a pre-conversion disciple has not yet accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- b. They may completely reject God or are seeking God.
- c. They may claim to be spiritual but in reality, they are their own god.

## ii. BORN

### 1. **Traits** of the Stage

- a. They are receptive and willing to be led.
- b. They are broken and want fixed.
- c. They know they are lost.
- d. They want find hope.

### 2. **Phrases** from the Stage

- a. "How can I have what you have?"
- b. "I just want to believe that there's something more."
- c. "What I'm doing isn't working."

### 3. **Definition** for the Stage

- a. In this stage, a newly born disciple repents [changes his mind and will], confesses faith in Jesus, and is baptized into Christ.

## iii. INFANT

### 1. **Traits** of the Stage

## The Discipleship Wheel

Where Real Faith Meets Real Life [Honk if you follow Jesus]

- a. ...extremely dependent
- b. ...still lord of their life.
- c. ...often confused about what truth is.
- d. ...eager to learn the truth.

### 2. **Phrases** from the Stage

- a. *"Christians are hypocrites."*
- b. *"How can a loving God send people to Hell?"*
- c. *"The Church just wants my money."*
- d. *"I'm too busy for a small group."*

### 3. **Definition** for the Stage

- a. In this stage, the disciple is alive but dependent, having not yet matured beyond his initial moment of faith.

## iv. CHILD

### 1. **Traits** of the Stage

- a. ...growing in their relationship with God.
- b. ...building relationships with other believers.
- c. ...developing habits of Bible study and prayer.
- d. ...plugging into relational environments for the purpose of discipleship [small groups]
- e. ...giving of their time and money.

### 2. **Phrases** from the Stage

- a. *"I love my church because I feel like I belong."*

## The Discipleship Wheel

Where Real Faith Meets Real Life [Honk if you follow Jesus]

- b. *"My small group is great! They make me feel welcome."*
- c. *"I'm upset about having to branch our small group. I just started making friends."*

### 3. **Definition** for the Stage

- a. In this stage, the disciple is growing in their relationship with Christ and allowing others to walk beside them as they follow.

## v. YOUNG ADULT

### 1. **Traits** of the Stage

- a. ...becoming less self-centered and more others-centered.
- b. ...beginning to see themselves as ministers.
- c. ...tithing and giving of their time from a place of thankfulness and love.
- d. ...understanding the Kingdom purpose of branching their small group.

### 2. **Phrases** from the Stage

- a. *"I'm going to visit Bob in the hospital tonight rather than going to the movies."*
- b. *"I'm serving in the nursery so that parents can attend a service."*
- c. *"I need to branch my small group, but no one else is ready to lead."*

### 3. **Definition** for the Stage

# The Discipleship Wheel

Where Real Faith Meets Real Life [Honk if you follow Jesus]

- a. In this stage, the disciple is zealous and idealistic, becoming more others-centered and less self-centered.

## vi. PARENT

### 1. **Traits** of the Stage

- a. ...mature disciples of Jesus, but continually growing and developing in their personal relationship with God and as a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- b. ...skilled at assessing where others are in the discipleship process and get personally involved to help them grow and develop.
- c. ...understanding their role as one who needs to intentionally invest in others— making disciples who can make disciples.
- d. ...becoming a coach who develops other/players/leaders.

### 2. **Phrases** from the Stage

- a. *"This guy at work asked me to explain the Bible to him. Pray for me."*
- b. *"We get to baptize someone from our small group tonight. When is the next Starting Point class? I want to get her plugged into ministry somewhere."*
- c. *"Our small group is going on a mission trip, and I have given each person a different responsibility."*
- d. *"I realize discipleship happens at home, too. Will you hold me*

## The Discipleship Wheel

Where Real Faith Meets Real Life [Honk if you follow Jesus]

*accountable to spend time discipling my kids?"*

- e. *"I have a person in my small group who is passionate about children. Can you have the children's ministry people call me?"*
- f. *"I'm taking George with me the next time I visit Bob in the hospital to help him learn how to minister to others."*
- g. *"I have a couple good potential leaders in my home group that I'm going to personally invest in."*
- h. *"Larry is a fine home group leader, and he has really matured in his faith. I'm going to ask him to pray about becoming a coach."*

### 3. **Definition** for the Stage

- a. In this stage, the disciple is reproducing other disciples by inviting them to follow them as they follow Christ.
- b. The discipler [the church] serves the disciple's needs where they are, not where we wish they were. We ask and then answer: *"What does this disciple need from me?" "What environments should I create for them?" "How do I best model how to live by faith?"* Then we **SCATTER** [SCTR] them.
  - i. What do we do with someone who is **DEAD**? We **SHARE** the Gospel [or bury them].
  - ii. What do we do with someone who is being **BORN**? We **SHARE** our story [how we came to faith].

## The Discipleship Wheel

*Where Real Faith Meets Real Life* [Honk if you follow Jesus]

- iii. What do we do with someone who is an **INFANT**?
    1. We **SHARE** life with them.
    2. We **SHARE** new truth with them.
    3. We **SHARE** protection.
    4. We **SHARE** new habits.
  - iv. What do we do with someone who is a **CHILD**?  
We **CONNECT** them.
    1. ...to God.
    2. ...to a small group.
    3. ...to a new purpose.
  - v. What do we do with someone who is a **YOUNG ADULT**? We **TRAIN** them [to do ministry].
    1. We equip [give tools to] them.
    2. We provide ministry opportunities.
    3. We coach them through both victories and defeats.
  - vi. What do we do with someone who is a **PARENT**?  
We **RELEASE** them to be a disciple-maker.
    1. We teach and model the discipleship process.
    2. We release them to disciple another with our help.
    3. We release them to disciple alone.
- c. God alone can change the heart and transform a life throughout the entire process.

Filename: The Discipleship Wheel.Collapsed.docx  
Folder: /Users/clarissawyatt/Library/Containers/com.microsoft.Word/Data/Documents  
Template: /Users/clarissawyatt/Library/Group Containers/UBF8T346G9.Office/User  
Content.localized/Templates.localized/Normal.dotm  
Title: This is your title  
Subject:  
Author: Steve Wyatt  
Keywords:  
Comments:  
Creation Date: 2/11/16 3:29 PM  
Change Number: 2  
Last Saved On: 2/11/16 3:29 PM  
Last Saved By: Microsoft Office User  
Total Editing Time: 2 Minutes  
Last Printed On: 2/11/16 3:29 PM  
As of Last Complete Printing  
Number of Pages: 13  
Number of Words: 1,817 (approx.)  
Number of Characters: 10,363 (approx.)