

GIC 101:

Disciple-ology – The Study of Following Christ

“The Lord Jesus Christ commands all believers to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world and to make disciples of all nations. Obedience to the Great Commission requires total commitment to “Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.” He calls us to a life of self-denying love and service. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).” - Essential #7

Discipleship is an Umbrella Description of being a follower of Christ.

Following Jesus is more than just knowing about Him or studying Him. “Knowing about the Lord is pointless without worship and praise. After all, the Devil knows far more about God than we do, and yet this knowledge gives him no benefit because he refuses to bow the knee in humble adoration (James 2:19).” – Ligonier.com

Discipleship/Being a Follower of Christ involves three things in balance:

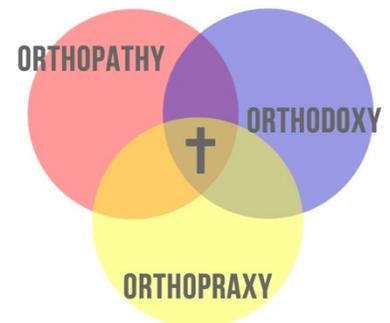
- Orthodoxy – Right Doctrine of God
- Orthopraxis – Right Practice unto God
- Orthopathy – Right Sentiment towards God

Discipleship means not only following Christ but growing in spiritual maturity. (Hebrews 6:1a)

“Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity...”

Orthodoxy – Obtaining Right Knowledge of God

- **Personal/Family Study/Instruction of God’s Word**
 - (Psalm 119:105) - *Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path.*
 - (Deuteronomy 11:19) – *You (parents) shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*
 - (Proverb 6:20) - *My son, keep your father’s commandment, and forsake not your mother’s teaching.*
 - (Ephesians 5:25-26) - *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,*
 - (Proverbs 31:26) – *A wife of Noble character...She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.*



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- **Corporate Study of God's Word**

- (Hebrews 10:23-25) - *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*
- (Titus 2 :1-5) - *But as for you (pastor), teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. (mine)*
- (Acts 10:25) - *Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.*

Teaching - To Build People in Christ

"What you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (II Timothy 2:2)

Disciples take personal time in the Word of God, learning with the Body and memorizing Scripture
"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." (Psalm 119:11)

Right Theology leads to Right Doxology – Study should lead to Praise and Glory of God in our lives...

Orthopraxis – Living According to God

- **Prayer**

Prayer is not so God can hear what we need.

(Matt. 6:8) Jesus said, "Your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

Jesus set the standard for prayer for all believers. (Matt.6:5-13)

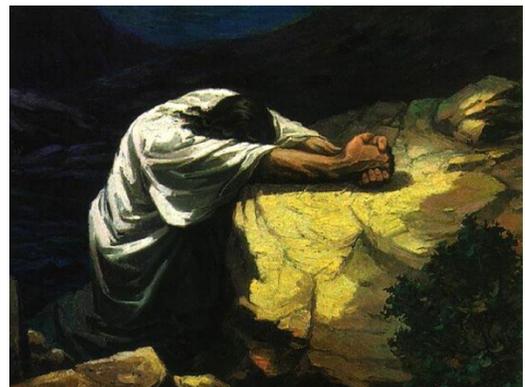
He prayed often– Matt. 14:23, 19:13, 21:22

Prayer was a daily practice for Him - Mark 1:35, 6:46

He prayed for himself – Luke 22:44

He prayed for us – John 17

He taught his disciples how to pray – Matt. 6:9-13



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Prayer is personal communication with God.

This communication includes:

- Requests for ourselves and others (intercession)
- Confession of sin
- Adoration
- Praise
- Thanksgiving
- And also God communicating to us indications of his response.



Why does God want us to pray?

1. So that we may express our trust in God and by which our trust can increase.
2. So that we may have deeper fellowship with Him.
3. And because He allows us to be involved in activities that are eternally important.

Prayer gives us an opportunity to participate significantly in the kingdom of God.

- Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology

What is effective prayer?

Prayer

1. According to God's will
2. In the Name of Jesus
 1. He is our only Mediator – Jesus (1 Tim 2:5)
 2. Praying in the name of Jesus is a prayer made on his authority and submitting to His will. (1 John 5:14-15)
3. With Faith - (Mark 11:24)
 1. Prayer is never wishful thinking, for it springs from a trust in a personal God who wants us to take him at his word.
4. Obedience - (Ps. 66:18, 1 Peter 3:7, 1 John 3:21-22)
5. Confession of sins – (Ps. 19:12, James 5:16)
6. Forgive Others – (Matt.6:14-14)
7. Humility – (James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5)
8. Praying Over Time – Moses (Deut. 9:25-26, 10:10-11), Luke 6:12, 2 Cor. 12:8
9. Praying Earnestly – (Heb. 5:7, Dan 9:19)
10. Wait on the Lord – (Ps. 27:14, 38:15, 130:5-6)
11. Pray privately – (Dan. 6:10, Luke 5:16, Mat. 6:6)
12. Pray with others – (Matt. 18:19-20, Acts 4:24)
13. Fast and pray – (Matt. 6:16)
14. Accept When God says "No" – (Luke 22:42, 2 Cor. 12:8-9)

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Methods of prayer:

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication

Pray the Alphabet

Almighty, lord you are...beautiful, comforting, dynamic, etc...

Praying the many **names of God**.

Add Journaling to your prayer time, mark prayers answered, questions for the Lord, and mark times when He speaks to you.

Matthew 6:9-13

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. {13 Or from evil; some late manuscripts, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.}'

- **Fasting** - Fasting is voluntarily going without food — or any other regularly enjoyed, good gift from God — for the sake of some spiritual purpose. It is markedly counter-cultural in our consumerist society, like abstaining from sex until marriage. - Desiringgod.com

Fasting often accompanies **prayer** in the Bible.

(Nehemiah 1:4, Esther 4:3, Daniel 9:3, Joel 2:12, Luke 2:37, Acts 13:2, 13:3, 14:23)

Fasting is practiced in many situations and in times of:

1. Intensive Intercession (praying for others)
2. **Repentance**
3. Worship
4. Seeking **Guidance**
5. Asking for Leadership

Fasting increases our sense of **humility** and dependence upon the Lord.

Fasting allow us to give **more** attention to prayer.

Fasting is a continual reminder that we are **living** sacrifices to Him.

Though no specific **guidelines** are written in the New Testaments about fasting, Jesus instructs "**when** you fast" in Matthew 6:16, meaning Jesus assumed His people would fast. He described that fasting would be part of the Christian's and Church's life when he spoke in Matthew 9:15, "The day will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast."



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How to Start Fasting

1. Start Small – one meal a day
2. Plan what to do instead of eating – prayer, scripture, journaling
3. Think of others – consider how it affects those around you
4. Trying different kinds of fasting
5. Fast from things other than food
6. Don't think of White Elephants – Desiringgod.com

- **Outreach – Care for the community around Us**

“Outreach implies action more than message...When a church engages in outreach, it is reaching out to the community in order to meet needs or to let people know of its existence. The Salvation Army is an excellent example. When tragedy strikes, especially in the case of natural disasters, the Salvation Army is often on the scene, providing food, clothing and other necessities...an act of love by the church and allows people to make a connection with the church — a connection we hope will eventually draw them into our fellowship...Unbelievers are given a glimpse of the love of Christ through believers. Believers take their love for the lost into the community and allow them to see changed hearts in action.” – Tim Challies

What are some ideas for Outreach to our community?

- **Evangelism – Sharing the Gospel in Love**

The Great Commission begins with Evangelism - Introducing People to Christ

“Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the things that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the close of the age.”

(Matthew 28:19,20)

Three Personal Mission Fields

Friends

Family

Neighbors



Methods of Remembering and Sharing the Gospel

Romans Road – 7 Steps

1. **Romans 3:23** *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”*
2. **Romans 5:8** *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*
3. **Romans 6:23** *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in[a] Christ Jesus our Lord.”*
4. **Romans 8:1** *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*
5. **Romans 10:9** *“If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*
6. **Romans 10:10** *“For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”*
7. **Romans 10:13** *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

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G.O.S.P.E.L.

GOD created us to be with Him.

OUR sins separate us from God.

SINS cannot be removed by good deeds.

PAYING the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.

EVERYONE who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.

LIFE with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.



3 Rs – By Charles Spurgeon

Ruin (Genesis 3:14-15)

Redemption (Romans 3:21-26)

Regeneration (John 3:1-8)

Sharing the gospel is one beggar showing another beggar where to get bread, so stay humble, be consistent in prayer and your own witness and never count out the work of God's Spirit to save.

- **In-reach – Care for One another**

Serving Others - using your spiritual gifts and serving the Body of Christ, which is to be like Jesus.

Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Philippians 2:5-7 “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.”

Mark 9:35 “And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”

Galatians 5:13 “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The early church had many ministries of care for the Body – Deacons & widows (Acts 6), and widows and orphans (James 1:27), and helping the poor among them. (Acts 4:32-37)

How else can we care for one another?



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Orthopathy – Hearts for God

Psalm 51:10 - *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

“**Orthopathy** comes from the Greek word *pathos*. Used in a theological context, it refers to the right forms of passions, emotions, and empathies. This is the emotional and attitudinal dimension of our faith.” (pathos.com).

It describes our focused affections towards God; for his salvation in Christ, for simply who He is as Lord, and our obligation as His creation.



Micah 6:8 - 'He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'

Jesus declared the greatest commandment was one that starts with the right heart towards God.

Matthew 22:36-40 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

How do we have a right affection and attitude towards God?

How can we express it?

Where does it come from?