

## BEING A DISCIPLE

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*Note: This presentation is adapted from “Dynamic Discipleship” produced by Campus Crusade Military Ministry.*

### 1. Introduction

To be an effective disciple of Jesus Christ in the military and to “make” another disciple can be a somewhat grey assignment. Lack of clarity on what to do can undermine the quality of our discipleship and reduce us to merely being friends. Confusion can also occur when you are discipling someone who is not that interested in ministry as such, but rather in advancing his or her military career by becoming a better person.

In the process you may hear talk of “investing your life in the right people”, and you realize that is exactly what you are *not* doing. You may feel defeated and just plain lousy and so may your potential disciple! Such are the highs and lows of discipleship ministry. This seminar aims to give us a sound and balanced approach to the task which Jesus Himself gave us.

### 2. Developing a Discipleship Making Relationship

From the very beginning of the process communicate a clear and compelling vision of discipleship that is consistent with scripture and the mission of Christ in the Great Commission. Help the potential disciple discern if discipleship, real discipleship, is for them or not. If it is, then go ahead and do the work.

If it is not the case, it is still okay. The body of Christ is large and there may be a better place in another fellowship for them to grow in following Jesus Christ. It is better to accept that at the outset rather than later. If the person is not decided in their life, paint a picture of how they can participate in God’s purposes in a way that may draw them in. The point is to be clear upfront and all the way through in making another a disciple.

VIDEO CLIP “WALKING WITH JESUS” EPISODE #5: “GROWING IN CHRIST.”

Questions:

1) *What are some of the critical aspects of being a mature disciple of Christ?*

2) *What are some of the essential relationship traits that should be present in order to proceed with a discipleship relationship?*

### 3. Developing Christ-Likeness in Disciples

The discipleship-making process has one goal – to be Christ like. Being like Christ is a balance of two critical commands from our Lord.

In Colossians 1:28-29, the Apostle Paul summarized the objective of the Christian life in the following words: “*We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so*

*that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labour, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.” (NASB)*

In Romans 8:29 (NIV), the Apostle concludes that our purpose in life is to “*be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.*” (Consider these verses also: Galatians 4:19; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

The New Testament clearly shows that we are to grow into Christ-likeness. Becoming like Christ is a process of growing into conformity to Christ’s character and his conduct. The life of Jesus Christ and his teachings make it clear that being Christ-like involves a balance between two fundamental commands: The Great Commandment in Matthew 22:37-40 and the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. In these two verses, we see that we are Christ-like when we love God, love our neighbours, and make others to be disciples.

Your ability to balance the great Commandment and the great Commission in your life depends on how much you are like Christ in following five critical areas of your life:

Character  
Content  
Competency  
Convictions  
Community

If Christ is seen in these five areas of your life, you are more likely to balance the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. These areas provide a basic pattern or model for understanding of “how we become disciples of Jesus Christ and how we make disciples.”

*Question: How would Jesus Christ describe these elements of being “like Him?”*

- 1) CHARACTER
- 2) CONTENT
- 3) COMPETENCY
- 4) CONVICTIONS
- 5) COMMUNITY

## 5. Summary/Notes