

THE MAKING OF DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

As Christians, we are told to *deny our selfishness, take up our cross daily and follow Jesus* (Luke 9:23) and commanded to *go and make disciples* of others (Matthew 28:19). **The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.** But before we can make disciples of other people in our community or around the world, we must first become good faithful disciples ourselves.

A disciple of Jesus Christ is someone who accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, studies the Bible and tries to live by the teachings of Jesus Christ. They develop a personal relationship with God through Bible study and through daily prayer. They show their love, appreciation and respect for God through their praise and worship of Him. They also develop relationships with their neighbors by fellowshiping with them and showing their love and respect for them through witnessing to them and helping provide for their needs.

It is each Christian's responsibility to grow spiritually, to grow stronger in relationships with God and others and help others accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Christians are encouraged to actively participate in each of the following ministries to some degree. They should make these ministries a part of their everyday personal life as well as work with other Christians to provide these ministries. Being a Christian is not a part-time job or just an occasional commitment; it is a way of life and an attitude.

We do good works, not to be saved, but because we are saved. Participation in such ministries does not save you since salvation comes from God's grace and your faith in Jesus, not by your works (Eph. 2:8-9). But faith without works is dead (James 2:14-17). Real saving faith is demonstrated by your willful participation, your good works, in these ministries. Your participation will help you to obey Jesus' great commandment (Matthew 22:34-40) and help you to do your part in fulfilling the mission of the church.

To help you become a strong disciple and to help you fulfill the mission of the Church, church leaders have identified these ministries: **The Ministries of Education, Prayer, Worship, Fellowship, Witness, Nurture, Outreach and Missions.** Use the "Love God & Love Others" Cross with these listed ministries to remind you everyday of how Jesus Christ showed His love for us and obeyed God the Father & how we should love, trust and obey God and show our love for others.

Ministry of Education – This is the learning and teaching of God's Word, the Holy Bible, through preaching, Sunday school teaching, Bible study groups, and individual reading of the Bible.

Ministry of Worship – This is showing our love, respect and appreciation for God especially on Sunday mornings through singing, praying, praising, offerings, sermons, communion, etc.

Ministry of Prayer – This is learning about how to talk to God to build a relationship with Him and encouraging prayer in private and together to praise and thank God and ask Him for specific needs.

Ministry of Fellowship – This is making and taking opportunities to get to know each other better to grow strong relationships with other Christians.

Ministry of Nurture – This is taking care of the emotional, physical, and financial needs of other Christians – usually members of our own church.

Ministry of Witness – This is learning how to witness and looking for ways to share our faith beliefs and experiences with other believers and non-believers.

Ministry of Missions – This is Christians providing for the spiritual needs of non-members outside the church – teaching the gospel and how to love and follow Jesus Christ.

Ministry of Outreach – This is Christians helping to take care of the emotional, physical, and financial needs of non-members outside the church.