

# We Are Statements 1-6





## Training Disciple-Makers

### Matthew 28:19-20

“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 that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

What does the grammar tell us about this passage in Matthew’s Gospel? The main verb is “**make disciples.**” It describes action to be done in its entirety as a person walks through life (Matt 10:6; Rom 15:20-21). The process of disciple-making is broken down into three parts.

**The first is evangelism.** This is simply sharing the life and truth of Jesus with people of all nations, revealing their need to repent and believe the gospel.

**The second is baptism.** A person is baptized after they have repented and believed the gospel.

**The third part is about teaching** the new disciple to persistently obey everything Jesus Christ commanded.

At Plethos, the Life Plan offers every disciple-maker a platform for growth and maturity through obedience to Christ. What we call **The Big Three Keystone Habits** are an essential part of the training process:

1. Systematic reading of the Bible and having a way to hold yourself accountable to practice what you learn each day.
2. Learning and applying Galatians 2:20 (*Living the Life of Christ*).
3. Passing on what you are learning in your home and / or circle of influence.

Jesus goes on to promise his presence through the entire disciple-making process, from salvation to baptism on through maturity. As we disciple others in the love and truth of Jesus, He is with us.

Our mission is to train faithful men and women to be disciple-makers in their home and circle of influence. We do this in four key areas of life: the family (Deut 4:9; Deut 6:4-9), one man teaching faithful men (2 Tim 2:2), one woman teaching faithful women (Titus 2:3-5), and within the local church (2 Tim 3:14 - 4:5; Acts 20:27-28).

We believe the job of making disciples is for every believer and Plethos is committed to training disciple-makers worldwide.



## Helping Disciples to Train in Godliness

### I Timothy 4:7-8

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

### Greek Lesson

**γυμνάζω; verb [γυμνός; noun, 'train naked, exercise']**  
**train, discipline**, in NT only by extension of the physical aspect, **1 Timothy 4:7**; Hebrews 5:14; 12:11; 2 Peter 2:14. (Note: The verb "train" is used in verse 7 and the noun "training" is used in verse 8.)  
 Train, is a command for a person to spend his entire life training in godliness.

**εὐσέβεια, ας, ἡ piety, godliness, religion** Ac 3:12; 1 Ti 2:2; 3:16; 2 Ti 3:5; Tit 1:1.  
 Godliness is being like Christ and doing Christ's work (1 Corinthians 11:1). Every disciple has the capacity to learn the word of God and live the word of God (Gal 2:20).  
 Our role is to help followers of Jesus discover their capacity to train in godliness.

**Training in godliness**, or, living like Christ, is intentional and multifaceted. It's teaching disciples:

1. How to eliminate the ways of the world from their life (1 Tim 4:7a; Rom 12:2a).
2. How to avoid untruth by learning and living the truth, the word of God (John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16).
3. To daily, systematically read the Bible and have personal accountability to practice what you learn.

When a disciple obeys the written word of God they are transformed over their lifetime in godliness (Rom 12:2b).

We train every disciple to know it is not enough to merely gain *head knowledge*, but to grow in *experiential knowledge* of God's word. Likewise it is not enough to merely gain a *head knowledge* of God's power, we know that *experiential knowledge* is key to growing in godliness. Our desire is to help every disciple learn to obey God's word by faith in Jesus so that they will experience the power of God in the scriptures. Let's not become like the Pharisees who had a head knowledge of God's word and power, but lived in sin because they did not live by faith in the Son of God (Matt 22:29; 23:2-3; Rom 9:30-32).

Our hope is to motivate disciples to train in godliness by teaching the value of godliness (1 Tim 4:8). A lifestyle of godliness will cause each of us to experience an abundant and eternal life (John 10:10b).

**Continued Study:** See the following documents to help train a disciple in godliness:

1. Living the Life of Christ
2. Matthew 6:33 Practice
3. How to Study the Bible
4. The Student, the Fish and Agassiz



## Helping Each Family Unit be a Love and Truth Center

### Love & Truth

"A new command I give you: **Love** one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will **know** that you are my disciples, if you love one another." **John 13:34-35**

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." **John 8:31-32**

**At Plethos, our desire is to help every disciple transform their home and local church into a love and truth center.** What is a love and truth center? It is a hospitable environment where the love and truth of Christ are lived and shared. As Peter instructs, we're called to purify our souls by obedience to the truth so we can love one another earnestly from the heart (1 Pet 1:22).

Disciples are commanded to do everything in love (1 Cor 16:14). In 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a Paul gives us sixteen action words that describe expressions of love. In Hebrews 12:5-6 we're told that God disciplines out of love. Think about how encouraging our homes and local churches would be with this type of divine love expressed.

Our families are not only to be centers for experiencing God's love, but His truth as well. We must know the truth in order to be a love and truth center. What is truth? John 17:17 tells us that God's Word is truth.

The best way to get to know the truth is to be in the Word; to daily, systematically read through the Bible and hold ourselves accountable to practice what we learn. This takes hard work (Prov 2:1-4; 2 Tim 2:15).

Ultimately, we practice being a love and truth center when we obey what Jesus taught His disciples who then passed on His love and truth. When you and I learn and live out Galatians 2:20 and Matthew 6:33 we are fostering healthy love and truth centers in our homes and local churches.

A great picture of a love and truth center is found in Galatians 5:22-23. On the other hand, a picture of a sin center is found in Galatians 5:19-20. Read through these and ask yourself, "Is my home a love and truth center or a sin center?" Put that another way, "Which kind of center is my home most often?"

### Continued Study:

1. Matthew 28:19-20
2. Matthew 6:33
3. Galatians 2:20



## Distributing the Grace of God by Serving One Another

### 1 Peter 4:10

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

The Greek words translated "**gift**" and "**grace**" have the same root. Digging in we discover that *gift* is an expression of divine *grace*. As Christians, when we use our particular gift of grace to serve others, we are distributing the particular resource God has given to one of His people in need. As a result, we build one another up in love (Eph 4:15-16).

Jesus instructed His people, "More happiness (blessing) is gained by giving than it is by receiving" (Acts 20:35b). When we realize that the way to happiness is giving, our desire and motivation to give will increase. But, we must also humbly receive what is given to us. The Body of Christ is most happy, whole, and effective in accomplishing God's will when His gifts of grace are both given and received.

By design, the Lord has distributed His grace gifts to each individual part of His Body, the Church (1 Cor 12:4-31). Paul wrote that Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers are to restore the Body to do God's work in the church and the world (Eph 4:11-12). The word often translated as "equip, prepare, or train" could best be translated "restore." People sick with sin are in no condition to serve. The role of the disciple, full of God's gift of grace, is to restore others to spiritual health so they can effectively serve the Body using God's gifts.

### Gifts of Grace

- Romans 12:6-8
- 1 Corinthians 12:8-11, 28-30
- 1 Peter 4:10-11
- Ephesians 4:11

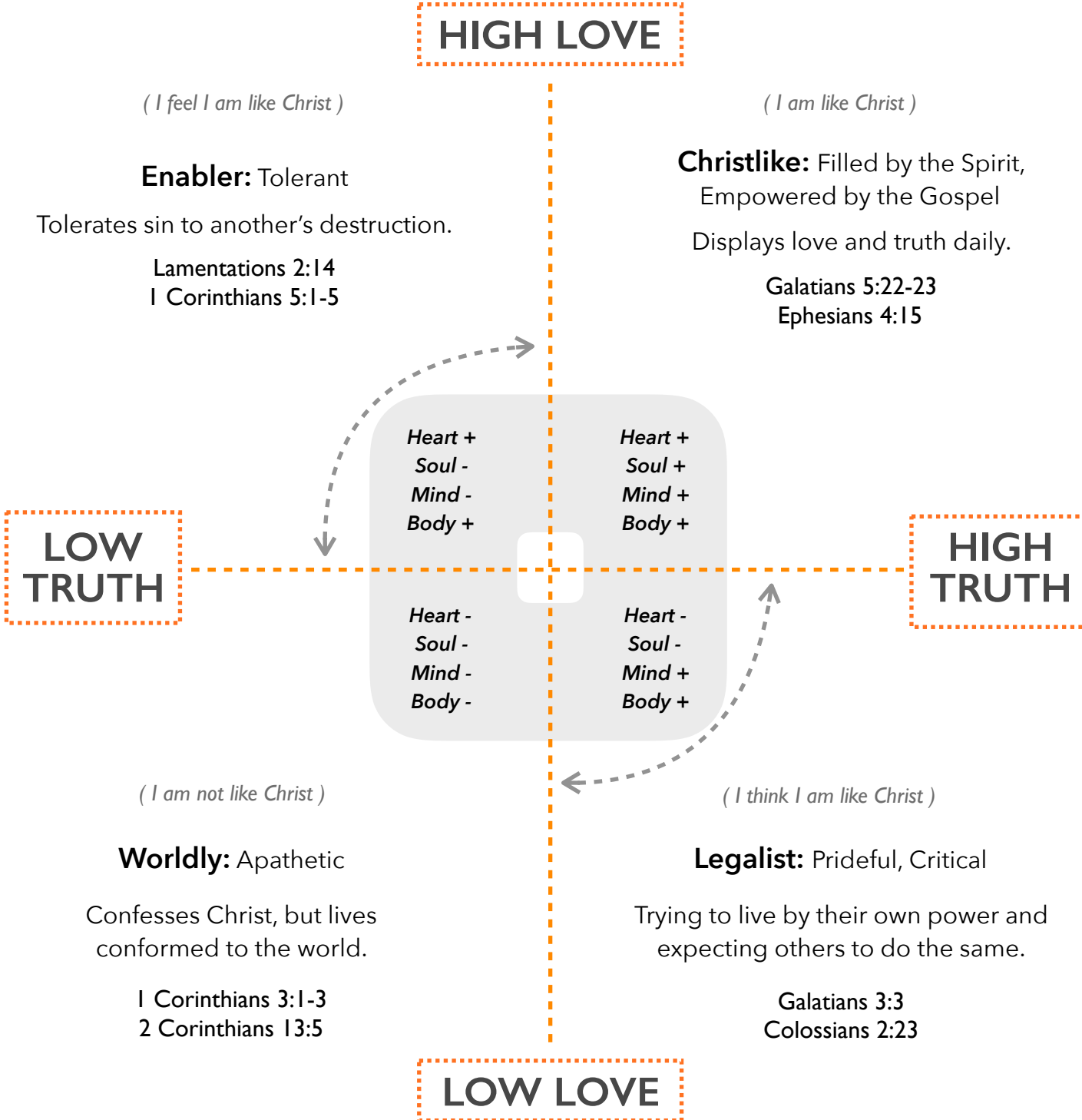
It's important to remember that the Holy Spirit distributes the gifts to His people as He wills (1 Cor 12:11). At Plethos we earnestly desire that each local Body of Christ be filled with all of His gifts. Psalm 37:4 says that when we delight in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our heart. Paul notes in Philippians 2:13 how God is at work in each believer to will and to do His good pleasure.

When we desire and distribute the grace of God to the people of God our home as well as our local church will become love and truth centers. Then, each disciple will become effective at fulfilling God's primary mission in their community to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10; Matt 28:19-20).

We are never more like Jesus than when we *give*, *serve* and humbly *receive*.

# THE LOVE & TRUTH CENTER

A Self-Assessment Tool for Christians  
WE ARE #3





## Families on Mission

### Deuteronomy 6:4-9

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. *(All adults and children)* You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. *(All adults and children)* And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. *(All parents)* You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. *(All parents)* You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. *(All parents)* You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

The **primary place** where disciple-making takes place is given in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, the family. The following passages affirm and give direction for the primary way of passing on the faith to the next generation.

**Ephesians 6:1-4** *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> 'Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise), <sup>3</sup> that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.' <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."*

**Proverbs 6:20** *"My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching."*

Within the primary place, the family, we engage our primary assignment through the lens of the Life Plan. What is our primary assignment?

At Plethos we believe our **primary assignment** for the basic unit of any culture, the family, is the Great Commission (the Great Assignment) given by our Lord Jesus 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 that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* (Matt. 28:19-20 ESV)

The Life Plan, then, is the foundational and focused tool designed to help each parent fulfill their primary assignment in their primary place. In particular, the **Disciple-Maker Preferred Future** proclaims the six 'We Are Statements' every member of the family is encouraged to aim for in order to live out the Great Commission and become a family on mission.

**Proverbs 6:20** My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching.

The **Disciple-Maker Pathway** offers guidance to families growing in the Disciple-Maker Preferred Future. This pathway, made up of six discipleship tools found in the Life Plan, is to be taught in the home by the parent(s) through daily, memorable, and repetitive formal and informal instruction and example. We believe as families grow in Christ, so does their mission.



## Teaching the Consequences of Not Obeying Jesus

### Luke 6:46-49

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. **But the one who hears and does not do them** is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."

**Jesus' Key Question:** "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"

Jesus is asking people to think through the importance of obeying His teaching. Disciples are to imitate Jesus and ask those we disciple, and those in our circle of influence, this very question.

Think about this: If we build our house on a firm foundation it will not be ruined when a flood rises up. The rock foundation would not be shaken. However, if we build our house on the dirt with no foundation, it will inevitably be ruined in a flood. Disciples who obey the commands of Jesus will stand firm when confronted by the storms and floods of sin. However, the one who does not obey Jesus' commands will be ruined.

Reading through the Bible we see that God continually presses this point. Proverbs 4:18-19 is a good example, "***But the path of the righteous (obedience) is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. <sup>19</sup> The way of the wicked (disobedience) is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.***"

Revelation 7:2-3 demonstrates the same principle. The servant of God (obedient disciple) is sealed from the harm coming as judgment of sin, but the disobedient person will get the full measure of harm. "*Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, saying, 'Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.'*"

As disciples, you and I are to be informing others of the consequences of sinful living and the blessings of righteous living. Both realities of the Gospel are necessary for raising up honest and healthy disciples who will make disciples. Prudence dwells with wisdom. ***Prudence is knowing the future results of your present actions*** (Proverbs 22:3). Knowing the consequences for not obeying Jesus is key to being prudent. When someone knows the consequences it helps them make wise decisions.

Our desire at Plethos is to help equip disciple-makers with the discernment necessary to profess the many blessings of Christ as well as the consequences of sin.