

Gospel Lighthouse Church
5/19/24
Radical Renewal of the Mind 4: Church Membership and/or Discipleship
(Relationship Loss?)

Text: Ro.12:1-2; Matt.28:19-20.

Introduction: The theme for 2024, "*Triunity*."

Triunity: the state or quality of being threefold or triple. (Dictionary.Com). For GLC:

- Relational enhancement, Realignment for reaching out, Reorganizing for effective ministry/service impact.

Defined terms:

- Radical: the Latin source of "**radical**" is "**radix**" (genitive form: "**radicis**"), which directly translates to "**root**" (www.etymonline.com/word/radical).

- Renewal: renovation, complete change for the better. It's a process. **Origin is relational** "Let us" ... Gen.1:26.

All have been affected by the damaged spiritual environment and experiences of the fallen world. Today's world is not the same God created. Adam's disobedience toward God brought about changes that affect each of us and also creation—Ro.8:18ff. Renewal of the mind causes transformation (presents tense, passive voice—change into another form or shape).

A clear distinction of church membership and discipleship is required to understand the process.

- Disciple (*mathetes*) - a person who learns from another especially one who then teaches others.
- Discipleship produces stable believers. Church membership in reality is being disciplined through hearing the word, attendance, fellowship, learning and *practice*/application.

The previous message addressed discipleship as: *A ministry priority—Matt.28:19, a process of transformation and a transformation that involves emotional and spiritual maturity*. NT meaning of disciple was being with Jesus, learning to be like Him—Acts 4:13. This message expands this meaning and describes some effects.

1. Discipline attention.

a. Sitting at the feet of Jesus—Lk 10:38-42.

- Mary *listening* to His word undistracted—v39.
- Jesus *tenderly addressed* Martha by double statement, "Martha, Martha." She was *over concerned* and troubled in mind about many things, *missing* the one thing that would deliver from *anxiety and troubled mind*—v 41.
- "Jesus is calling you to slow down and simplify your life around the three goals of an apprentice: To be with your rabbi, become like him, and do as he did. To make apprenticeship to him the animating center of gravity for your entire life."¹
- Jesus affirmed Mary discovered the necessary thing—*listening to Jesus*—mark of discipleship.
- Jesus is literally saying *discipleship* is delivering.

b. Paul uses the same mark of discipleship—"the feet of Gamaliel"—Acts 22:3.

2. Dusty disciples.

a. Closely following Jesus.

- Some scholars think: "disciples traveled from place to place by walking behind their rabbi, following so closely that they became covered with the dust swirling up from his sandals."²

b. Covered with Jesus way of thinking, living covered with their master's whole way of thinking, living and obedience—the goal—Matthew 28:19.

3. Definite effects of transformation—Phil.2:5-8.

a. Same mind as Jesus—"Let this mind be." Present tense passive voice—let the Spirit bring about the change. *Its discipleship terminology*.

b. Secure in identity—posture in discipleship—vv7-8a.

c. Submissive—obedience to God's purpose—v8b. JDF

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¹ "Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus. Become like him. Do as he did." John Mark Comer, p.76 kindle.

² "Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus: How the Jewishness of Jesus Can Transform Your Faith" Ann Spangler, Lois Tverberg, p.18 kindle.

