

Gospel Lighthouse Church
5/26/24
Radical Renewal of the Mind- #5: Church Membership and/or Discipleship #3
(Relationship Loss?)

Text: Ro.12:1-2; Matt.28:19-20; Luke 6:40; **John 6:48-69.**

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 NT meaning of disciple was being with Jesus, learning to be like Him—Acts 4:13.

The previous message addressed discipleship as: Discipline attention, Dusty disciples and Definite effects of transformation. This message focuses on three additional features of discipleship:

1. Its demanding—John 6:48-69 (*52—59).
 - a. Revelation of Jesus—living bread—v51, giver and sustainer of life—vv53-55.
 - The term “to eat Jesus’ flesh and drink His blood is synonymous with the words *to welcome, accept, receive, believe into, and the like.*”¹
 - b. Revelation requires corresponding response—vv60 and 67.
 - Difficult for some to accept (*result, inward separation*) and may cause departure (*outward openly separation*) from the discipleship track-v66.
 - Jesus asked the twelve did they wish/intent to depart *secretly* or quietly slip away undercover (Refer to, *Interpretation of St. John’s Gospel*, by R.C.H. Lenski., p 519).
 - Discipleship is loyalty by choice.
2. Its developing—Lk 6:40 perfectly trained—Perfect passive in the Greek—(action done with continuing results).
 - a. Perfectly trained (NKJV), *katartizo*:
 - “To fit, complete, to mend (what has been broken or rent), to repair to complete, equip, put in order.”²
 - Same word translated, *mending nets*—Matthew 4:21, *restore* Galatians 6:1, root to *equipping/perfecting* Eph.4:12.
 - b. Persevering in nature—stay the course in development.
3. Its destiny driven—Lk.6:40b.
 - a. Reproduction of the character of Christ—“... will become like the teacher.” (Lk. 6:40 NLT).
 - b. Registered (formally and officially qualified as a child of God) to be *fashioned/conformed* to the image of Jesus—Ro.8:29.

JDF

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¹ Social-Science commentary on the Gospel of John, Bruce J. Malina and Richard L. Rohrbaugh, Fortress Press, P134.

² Strong Exhaustive concordance, *katartizo* #2675.

