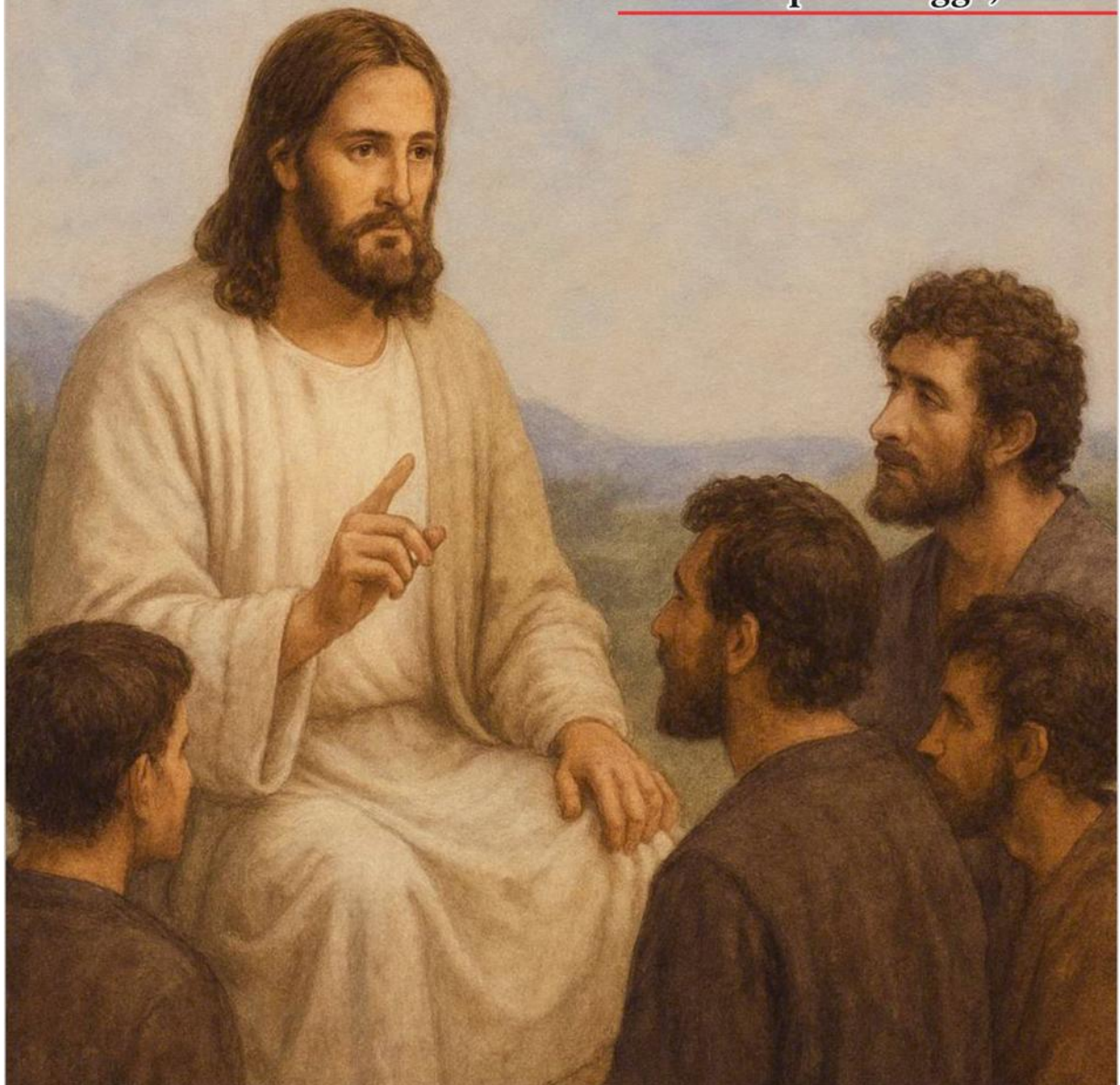


# Menjadi Murid Kristus

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## FOREWORD

Previously the author published the book "*Church Organizational Structure and Development*" which was intended for servants of God and church councils. In the book there is, among other things, material to educate the congregation to become disciples of Christ.

Furthermore, the author was moved to specifically write the book *Becoming a Disciple of Christ* because God wants all His children not to be passive, but active, creative, initiative and dynamic, namely by becoming dedicated disciples of Christ. Therefore, this theme was made separate so that it could be shared and read by the congregation.

In the Great Commission it says,

*<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and **teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

*And surely **I am with you always, to the very end of the age.***”

(Matthew 28:19-20).

In the two verses above there are at least four things: first, **"make disciple"**; second, **"baptizing"**; third **"teaching"**; the fourth is **"I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

These first three points are explored in this book, namely, what all children of God truly need to understand and do in order to become disciples of Christ.

Finally, I hope this concise book can provide insight and guidance so that we all can become disciples of Christ.

*Soli Deo Gloria,*

Author

# BECOMING A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

## 1. GREAT COMMISSION

Before ascending to heaven, the Lord Jesus gave a message which, among other things, is written in the Gospel of Matthew 28:19–20, which says,

*<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and **teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely **I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**"*

In these two verses there are at least four things: first, "**make disciple**"; second, "**baptizing**"; third, "**teaching**"; and the fourth is "**I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**"

If we study these verses, there are something very interesting. Pay attention to the words "**make disciples**" in verse 19 which are in simple present tense, which means '**to make**

**disciples'**, then **"baptizing"** (present continuous) which means **'continuously baptizing'**. Meanwhile, in verse 20 the word **"teaching"** (present continuous) is used, which means **'teaching continuously'**.

So, simply put, the Great Commission roughly goes as follows.

*"Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations and continue to look for new souls to be baptized in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit and teach them continually to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.***

This means that the ultimate goal is **to make all nations disciples of Christ**. Meanwhile, we **continually seek out new souls for baptism** and teach them to do everything the Lord Jesus commanded them, or **teach them continuously until they understand, obey, and ultimately become doers of the Word**.

Thus, we don't wait until our congregation becomes disciples of Christ before seeking out new souls and teaching them to be doers of the Word, because **truly being doers of the Word is what will make them disciples of Christ.**

## **2. BECOMING A DISCIPLE**

What does "disciple" in the Great Commission mean? The word "disciple" relates to **being taught and learning**. This means teaching all nations to know Christ and **teaching them until they have the awareness and desire to learn things related to Christ by themselves.**

So, they are not just waiting and receiving, but are also taught until they have **the awareness to want to learn on their own**. This, of course, is gradual, just like when we go to school. There are no tests or exams when we are in kindergarten. However, when we enter elementary school, at that point we are required to study independently or review previously taught

material, and there are tests to face. This independent learning will continue to increase as our education level increases.

While attending St. Aloysius High School, the author was taught by a Physics teacher named Mr. Peter Kho. He (the late) taught by providing a summary of a subject, for example, Newton's Third Law, explaining its application in everyday life. In addition to presenting the formula, he also explained why the formula was the way it was. After that, he would provide an example problem that he had worked out himself. Next, he would create another problem and assign a student to work on it. If the student answered correctly, he would say, "Yes, you understand. If you want to understand more, you can read the book at home."

That's how Mr. Peter Kho taught. He would then use the remaining time for "Tanya Waras" (Tanya=Ask, Waras= Sane), "Please ask questions to become sane."

The author also remembers his master's degree. In the first meeting, a lecturer explained the outline, the uses, and benefits of the course he was teaching. Then, at the end of the session,

he explained, "This is the book we will be using. We will discuss the second chapter in the next meeting. So, please prepare yourselves."

In the next meeting, he briefly explained the outline of the second chapter and then opened the session to questions. "So, do you have any questions?" Luckily, no one asked. "Okay, then, you understand everything. Next week, we'll discuss the third chapter. Read it and prepare well."

What the lecturer did was not unusual. The author once read that Harvard University students in America were accustomed to this practice. In fact, quite a few of them had already finished reading the entire semester's textbooks, and even other books, allowing them to ask questions or debate the material being taught.

Jesus, as Rabbi, opened the space for the students to ask questions. He then sent them to practice what they had learned.

- <sup>21</sup> *Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to*

*seven times?”<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. (Matthew 18:21-22).*

- *Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. (Mark 6:7).*

Furthermore, the Lord Jesus also provided space for discussion, for example with Nicodemus (John 3:1-21).

Returning to the meaning of discipleship in the Great Commission, which is to be taught and learn. What should we, as future disciples, pay attention to, be taught, and learn?

## **A. Confirming Ourselves as Children of God**

Our primary and first task is to confirm that we are children of God, that is, individuals who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, as written in Romans 10:9, among other things:

*If you **declare with your mouth**, “Jesus is Lord,” and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

**Declare with your mouth** has the connotation of "**consciously uttering**." This means that a person must be conscious when making the confession. That is why, in statements or confessions, especially official documents, it is always written, "I make this statement/confession consciously, without any pressure, and in good health." So, if someone is unconscious, what is said or expressed is not considered or recognized as a statement or confession.

Similarly, the word "**believe**" implies the connotation of "**understanding**." We cannot believe something we do not understand. That is why the verse adds "**believe in your heart**." This means that what they believe comes from their hearts, not just words. Therefore, **we need to understand the basics of salvation in Christ**, both in the form of catechism and other forms, so that future children of God understand before they accept Christ as their Lord and Savior. (Please read the author's book, *The Foundations of Christianity*).

Furthermore, **we need to ensure** that all members of our family **have consciously and understandingly accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior!**

Perhaps some of them were dedicated to God as children and baptized in their teens. However, it is very possible that at that time they were not yet aware of and understood salvation in Jesus Christ, like the author who was baptized in his teens. If so, it is possible that **they were not yet Christians in the true sense or, in other words, not yet children of God.** Why? **Because they had never consciously and understandingly accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior.**

That is why, when the author first heard God's voice, that voice, among other things, reminded him of his status as a child of God. So, at that time, the author prayed to accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. (Please read the author's book, *4 Stages of Faith Growth*).

## **B. Teaching the Fruit of the Spirit**

John 15:2 says,

*He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.*

This verse clearly states that bearing fruit is essential and **required by God**. However, the subject of the Fruit of the Spirit is rarely discussed in worship. Therefore, we must pay close attention when this topic is preached. Furthermore, we also need to actively study this topic, which consists of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, as recorded in Galatians 5:22–23.

*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

## **C. Unity: The Fruit of the Spirit**

Although the Fruit of the Spirit consists of nine elements, it is a single entity. However, if we study it, we find that these nine elements can be divided into three groups.

- **The first group is related to God:** love, joy, and peace.
- **The second group is related to humans:** forbearance, kindness and goodness.
- **The third group is those related to oneself:** faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

## **1. FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT RELATED TO GOD**

### **a) Love (Greek: agape).**

This fruit of the Spirit is related to God's love, which has redeemed our sins and made us His children. In this regard, we must understand and realize how great God's love is, that He willingly sacrificed His only Son to atone for our sins. Truly, we are utterly unworthy of redemption. However, because of God's immense love, we were redeemed and even adopted as His children.

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him **shall not perish but have eternal life.***  
(John 3:16).

*But God demonstrates His love for us in that, **while we were still sinners,** Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8).*

Apart from that, we must also understand **how valuable** God's redemptive work is and the rights that God has given us as His children so that we do not have to bear our sins.

*What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? (Matt. 16:26).*

When we understand what agape is, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we will be able to love God and others.

## **b) Joy (Greek: Khara)**

We will have joy when we believe that God **has planned** something beautiful and full of hope for each of His children.

Therefore, we must believe that the God we worship is a living God, full of love, even willing to sacrifice His Son for us. Apart from that, God, who is our Father, has planned everything beautiful and full of hope for us. He never leaves us so we will still have joy even though we face problems or difficulties. In fact, even in times of persecution, we will not lose our joy because we believe that whatever happens in our lives is in God's plan.

- *For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “**plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.** (Jeremiah 29:11).*
- *And we know that **in all things God works for the good of those who love him**, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28).*

### **c) Peace (Greek: Eirene)**

We will have peace **when we have no fear**. We will have peace when we understand and are convinced that once we are redeemed by Christ, all our sins are forgiven, so we have no fear

of facing God's judgment. **In fact, we have joy because we are assured of entering the Kingdom of Heaven.**

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1).*

## **2) FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT RELATING TO OTHER PEOPLE**

### **a) Forbearance (Greek: Makrothumia)**

**There are two things** related to forbearance: **patience in the face of difficulties** and **patience in dealing with others.**

We will **have patience** when facing difficulties and trials **because we are confident that these difficulties and trials will not exceed our strength.**

Furthermore, **God will also provide a way out** so we can overcome them.

*No temptation **has overtaken you** except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be*

*tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, **he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.** (1 Corinthians 10:13).*

Furthermore, the Lord Jesus also repeatedly said that the world will hate us because we belong to God, not to this world.

*<sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, keep in mind that **it hated me first.** <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, **you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.** (John 15:18–19)*

The Lord Jesus also explained that in these last days we will be hated, persecuted, and even killed for His name’s sake.

*“**Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.** (Matthew 24:9)*

We will also **have patience in dealing with others** when we realize God’s great love, which has redeemed us sinners. This awareness of God’s love will enable us to remain patient when dealing with others because, in truth, **we are all no better**

**than those who harm or hurt us.** Furthermore, we also need to realize that **we have received forgiveness from God many times**, even for mistakes and sins **that are worse and more filthy** than those others have committed against us.

## **b) Kindness (Greek: Khrestotes)**

Kindness consists of **mercy** and **generosity**.

**The essence of mercy is forgiveness.** When we understand about agape love, God's great love for us, **we will be able to forgive because God has forgiven us first.** Besides, God will not forgive our mistakes if we do not forgive those who have wronged us.

*<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. (Matt. 6:14–15).*

Next, **generosity** or **actions to give and help others**. We will be able to give and help others if we understand that **we have**

**previously received such great gifts and help from God** in the form of redemption and status as children of God.

*Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but **with actions and in truth.*** (1 John 3:18).

### **c) Goodness** (Greek: Agathosune)

Goodness can be **right action**, and **wise action**, or **virtue**. As children of God, we must always do right, that is, **the right thing to do in our interactions with others, in accordance with God's word.**

- *Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. **All you need to say is a simple “Yes” or “No.”** Otherwise you will be condemned.* (James 5:12).
- *You know the commandments: ‘**You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.*** (Mark 10:19).

In addition, the congregation must also engage in **wise or virtuous actions**, namely **actions that are best done because they can bring about the common good**, such as disposing of trash properly, cleaning up spills so no one slips, removing stones from the road so no one stumbles, and other wise actions.

*For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith **goodness**; and to **goodness**, knowledge; (2 Peter 1:5 NIV).*

*And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith **virtue**; and to **virtue** knowledge; (2 Peter 1:5 KJV).*

### **3. FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT RELATING TO OURSELVES**

#### **a) Faithfulness (Greek: Pistis)**

If we understand **God's love** and the **pricelessness of our salvation**, including the forgiveness of sins, adoption as children of God, and eternal life in heaven, as well as **God's promise that He will never abandon us**, this conviction will

empower us to follow God to the end, even in the face of persecution.

*Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, **the devil will put some of you in prison to test you**, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. (Revelation 2:10).*

## **b) Gentleness (Greek: Prautes)**

Gentleness in the Fruit of the Spirit does not consist in acting or speaking softly. Prautes is related to a gentle heart, which in the King James Version of the Bible uses the word "meek"—a "meek heart," a heart full of compassion. When the Lord Jesus saw the suffering, He felt compassion.

*When he saw the crowds, **he had compassion** on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:36).*

Ultimately, **this meekness will enable us to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

### **c) Self-Control (Greek: Enkrateia)**

Self-control is the control of thoughts, actions, and words, all of which come from the heart.

- *But the things that come out of a person's mouth **come from the heart**, and these defile them. (Matthew 15:18).*
- *For **out of the heart** come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. (Matthew 15:19).*

Therefore, if we want to control ourselves, **we must control our hearts** because the heart is the source. Thank God because when we were redeemed by the blood of Christ, we became new creations with **a new conscience** so that we can live a new life.

- *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **the new creation** has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Cor. 5:17).*

- *and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of **a clear conscience** toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (1 Pet. 3:21).*

For more details, please read the author's book entitled *Fruit of the Spirit and Becoming a Fruitful People*.

## **D. Prospective Students Who Want to "Learn"**

Furthermore, as prospective students, we shouldn't just wait to be taught, but rather take the initiative to learn on our own. Here are some things we must be able to do on our own.

### **1. READ THE BIBLE**

We must commit **to reading the Bible from Genesis to Revelation at least once a year**. We must read the Bible thoroughly and completely, without skipping any book, chapter, verse, word, or even punctuation mark, because the Bible is one

whole. Don't be afraid of not understanding, **because God has given each of His children the Holy Spirit** to empower them to understand His word, even the most intimate matters of God.

*these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. (1 Corinthians 2:10)*

Therefore, every time we read God's word, begin with prayer, asking God to guide you in understanding His word.

## **2. CONDUCTING FAMILY WORSHIP**

As children of God, it is not enough for us to worship only once or twice a week. Therefore, we need to encourage our families **to hold family worship at each home**. Family worship will educate the head of the family **to become the family priest**, which will make him more spiritually mature and serving as **a guide for the entire family** to grow closer to and know God better. Please read the author's book, *Family Worship*, which

contains **explanations and habits** that the author practices in family worship.

### 3. SERVING

In the author's book, *Two Types of Service*, it is explained that there are basically two types of service: **common service** and **special service**. Common service is recorded in Romans 12:11.

*Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, **serving the Lord**.*

If we pay attention to this verse, the phrase "**serving the Lord**" is not accompanied by any explanation, either before or after it. Therefore, the author considers serving God in this verse to be **regular service**. This means **a service that every child of God must carry out**, and we will all be held accountable for that service. Regular service relates to God's desire from the Old Testament, namely that **all children—as the next generation—**

**remain God's people**, as recorded in Deuteronomy 6:5–9 and the Great Commission in the New Testament.

*<sup>5</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

Next is **special service**, recorded in Romans 12:6–8.

*<sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

This passage clearly states that special service **is given by grace**. Grace is a gift from God. It also explains that each person receives their own gifts according to God's grace. This means that **not everyone receives the same gifts**. Each person can receive different gifts, and many people have not or do not receive these gifts.

As children of God, we must understand these two types of service so that **we can serve according to God's will** and not waste time and energy on services that are not our gifts, thus neglecting our primary duty, namely, performing the regular service that is **required of us**. Besides being held accountable for our regular service, neglecting to do so will leave us **filled with deep sorrow and grief**.

#### **4. QUIET TIME**

As children of God, we must have quiet time with God. We should set aside a special time each day to pray privately to God. We may regularly pray together with our families in the morning,

at mealtimes, or during family worship. However, we must still have private time with God because, during quiet time, we can not only express what is in our hearts to God in prayer, but also often at that time **God reveals His heart to us.**

## **E. Bearing Fruit**

As explained previously, being a fruitful people is important and required by God. However, truly becoming a fruitful people is not our own effort, but rather God's work in our lives.

*for it is **God who works in you** to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.* (Philippians 2:13).

However, this should not make us passive and pessimistic, but we must actively and seriously do our part while asking for God's good pleasure.

When we have become disciples, children of God who have been taught and are willing to learn, we then persevere in practicing the teachings of the Lord Jesus. We study continuously and diligently to become doers of the Word. **By**

**becoming doers of the Word**, we not only understand the Word but also **experience its fulfillment, which will become a solid foundation for our faith.**

Furthermore, we will become children of God who have **a personal relationship with Him.**

*Jesus replied, “Anyone **who loves me will obey my teaching.** My Father will love them, and **we will come to them and make our home with them.** (John 14:23).*

If we have a strong foundation of faith and an intimate relationship with God, **we will be branches firmly attached to the vine**, so that in His time we will become a fruitful people.

*“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while **every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.** (John 15:1–2).*

## **F. Conditions for Bearing Fruit**

**The first condition** is ensuring that we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We have become children of God, so we have the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

**The second condition** is yielding ourselves to be led by the Spirit.

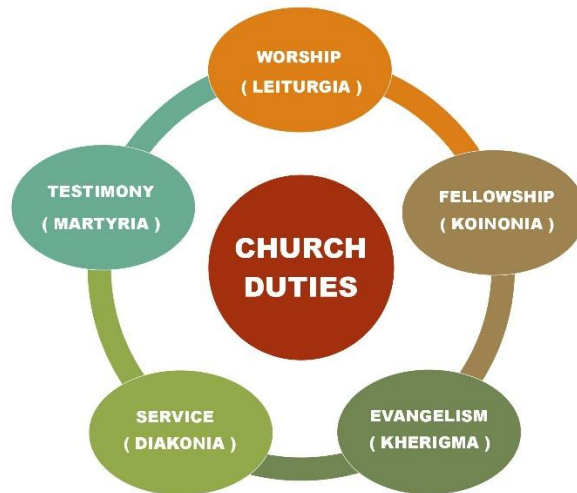
- *Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*  
(Galatians 5:25).
- *<sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other; so that you are not to do whatever you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*  
(Galatians 5:16–18).

Yielding ourselves to being led by the Spirit means that we **truly repent** and are **determined to leave our fleshly life behind** and surrender completely to the Holy Spirit to guide our lives.

**The third requirement** is to ensure that the congregation includes the fourth type of Christians, those who are **doers of the Word**, as explained by the Lord Jesus in "The Parable of the Sower." It clearly states that only Christians of the fourth type can bear fruit (Matthew 13:1–23, Mark 4:1–20, Luke 8:4–15). For more details, please read the author's book, *"4 Types of Christians."*

### **3. FIVE AREAS OF CHURCH MINISTRY**

Some Christian organizations hold the principle that the church's duties relate to five areas of ministry: worship (leiturgia), fellowship (koinonia), evangelism (kherigma), service (diakonia), and testimony (martyria).



Some churches expect new children of God, those who have recently received Christ and been baptized, to be immediately active in these areas of ministry. If we look closely, we see that these five ministries are actually related to the Fruit of the Spirit. In other words, these areas of ministry are closely related to the maturity of the congregation.

So, if we want newly saved people to be active in ministry, it's like immediately demanding that a newly grafted branch bear fruit. That's simply unreasonable. So, what should we do?

A newly grafted branch onto a vine must first be nurtured, perhaps tied, given fertilizer or additional soil, protected from direct sunlight, and watered to strengthen it, so that **the**

**branches truly become one with the vine.** In fact, we must wait until the branch is able to receive nourishment from the vine. When the branch is able to receive nourishment from the vine, **it will, in time, bear fruit.**

This means that these five areas of ministry will automatically be realized when the pastor trains the congregation to become disciples and then continually teaches them to be doers of God's word. When the congregation has a true understanding of salvation and has become disciples—that is, willing to learn and be taught, and then they become doers of the Word, in time God will cause them to bear fruit so that **they will automatically participate in these five areas of ministry.**

We don't need to encourage them; the process of participating in ministry will happen naturally.

Furthermore, these five church duties do not have to be carried out in the church, but can be carried out outside the church or in the parachurch.

## A. Worship

In the author's book entitled "*Worshipping the Father in Spirit and Truth*," it is explained that the Lord Jesus said,

*Yet a time is coming and has now come when **the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth**, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.* (John 4:23).

What does it look like to worship the Father in spirit and truth? Worshiping the Father in spirit means we must worship the Father in spirit (not in the flesh), whenever and wherever we are, at all times and in all places, just as the spirit is not bound by time and place. Truth is the word of God, as explained in John 17:17b,

*"your word is truth."*

So, worshiping the Father in spirit and truth means putting God's word into practice in every moment of our lives, wherever we are.

In the New Testament, worshiping the Father is not associated with a particular liturgy or church activity, but worshiping the Father is our entire activity: from the moment we

wake up until the moment we go to sleep, throughout our lives, wherever we are.

As husbands, how we treat our wives is our worship. As entrepreneurs, how we run our businesses and treat our employees is our worship. As wives, how we serve our husbands and children is our worship. As employees, how we carry out our duties and obligations is our worship, and so on. This means that **we worship the Father in spirit and truth if all our activities are in accordance with God's word and do not violate it.**

## **B. Fellowship**

Fellowship is not always related to church activities. Family worship is also a form of fellowship, as Matthew 18:20 says,

*For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.*

Fellowship doesn't always occur in church. When a husband and wife engage in family worship, it is already a form of fellowship.

Indeed, God promises extraordinary blessings to families who engage in family worship. As God says, if they agree in whatever they ask, their request will be granted by the Heavenly Father.

*“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. (Matthew 18:19).*

### **C. Evangelism**

The author's book, *The Great Commission*, discusses, among other things, the verse in Acts 1:8, which states,

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses **in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**”*

We don't currently live in Jerusalem. So, what does it mean that the Great Commission begins in Jerusalem? Starting in Jerusalem means that the evangelism begins in the smallest circle, namely our own families. The Great Commission must

begin with our own families. Our husbands, wives, and our children, are the primary focus of evangelism. After that, we move on to Judea, to our extended families: our fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, uncles, and aunts. From there, we move on to Samaria, the neighbor of Judea, meaning our actual neighbors, or perhaps even our business associates, perhaps our in-laws, or our close friends. After that, we go to the ends of the earth.

## **D. Service**

Service is helping others in need with the aim of easing their burdens and reducing social inequality. Therefore, this service is not limited to church service. It is a manifestation of Christ's love seen and felt by the community.

In this regard, God's servants must encourage their congregations to be concerned about social and humanitarian issues in their communities. In this way, many people can see

and feel the love of the Lord Jesus through our lives. However, this service must prioritize fellow believers.

*Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*  
(Galatians 6:10).

## **E. Testimony**

Matthew 5:16 and John 15:8 clearly state,

- *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.* (Matt. 5:16).
- *This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.* (John 15:8).

These verses explain at least two things. First, we become witnesses: we become light and salt that glorifies God if we bear much fruit. This means that glorifying God is not just what comes out of our mouths, whether it is praise or testimony, but **what**

**God wants more is praise that comes out of other people's mouths.** Why? Because they saw our fruits, they glorified the name of the Lord.

The second clearly says, “***showing yourself to be my disciples.***” This verse emphasizes that the disciples God desires are children of God who are not only willing to learn and be taught, **but also who consistently put God's word into practice**, thus bearing much fruit. By **becoming doers of the Word**, people will see and feel Christ's love in our lives, so that **without the need for much talk, souls thirsting for love and truth will be drawn to become disciples of Christ.**

<sup>2</sup> *You yourselves are **our letter**, written on our hearts, **known and read by everyone.*** <sup>3</sup> *You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with **the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*** (2 Corinthians 3:2–3).

## **4. CONCLUSION**

**"Becoming like Christ" is the ultimate goal and result of living as "disciples of Christ."** Becoming like Christ means **living a life of holiness and love**, which is gradually achieved through the process of learning and spiritual growth as disciples, namely through obedience to His teachings, self-denial, and the renewal of the mind. It is a long and continuous process to be cultivated until it reaches its goal: becoming like Christ. This is the ultimate goal of the believer's life: becoming like Christ when He reveals Himself.

Becoming like Christ means displaying His character, such as love, gentleness, kindness, and faithfulness, **grounded in obedience to God's Word**. It is a transformation that occurs through God's power, gradually occurring as we grow spiritually. **Becoming a disciple is the path and process to achieving Christlikeness**. Every act of discipleship leads us to become more like Christ. **So, being a disciple of Christ is the means, while becoming like Him is the goal.**

*For those God foreknew **he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. (Rom. 8:29).*