

CHAPTER 1

MAKING DISCIPLES

1. MAKING DISCIPLES

One of the last commands Jesus gave us was to go into all the world and make disciples (Matt. 28:18-20). This is a principle that has been lost to the Church for some time, yet it is one of the great commands. But what exactly is a disciple?

The Greek word *mathetes* means 'a learner', from the verb *manthano*, 'to learn'. Often in Church, if a person has knowledge, we mistake it for maturity, but the Bible says the opposite is true (1 Cor. 8:1). Knowledge_____.

Bible College is not actually found in the Bible, but was founded when the Church had lost its way in the period called 'The Dark Age of the Church.'
Bible College students receive information, but not Life

Correct attitudes lead to correct handling of knowledge (Phil. 2:5).

- A. New Christians love God (1 Cor. 8:3), but in time they know only scripture. The man who_____ God is known by God, rather than the man who knows scripture.
- B. Most adults give the impression they know a little about everything, or give the appearance that they know more than they actually do. Society has much more knowledge, but it has not been taught to learn.
Jesus said, "Make_____" (Matt. 28:19).
Charles Simpson said, "I would rather teach a man how to learn than teach him all I know."

SOCIETY LOOKS FOR ABILITY – BUT GOD LOOKS FOR RIGHT CHARACTER

- A. A head full of scriptures does not necessarily indicate a godly person: he might just have a trained brain. Even a parrot can be taught to repeat scriptures.
- B. A man that can be corrected loves knowledge, but the one who hates correction is _____ (Prov. 12:1).
- C. Let the wise teach? – no, this is not what the Bible says, but rather, let the wise _____ and add to their learning (Prov. 1:5).
- D. Instruct a wise man and he will be _____ still (Prov. 9:9), or the wise make good disciples as they are teachable.

HOW CAN WE TELL EARTHLY WISDOM FROM HEAVENLY WISDOM?

- A. Heavenly wisdom is the opposite of all earthly wisdom (James 3:13-18).
- B. It is possible to be right, yet very wrong. All depends on the attitude behind it. When the Pharisees came to Jesus, He did not tell them they were wrong, but called them 'hypocrites' and 'whitewashed tombs' (Matt. 23:27). They had knowledge of the scriptures, but said it with wrong attitudes.

SYMPTOMS OF AN UNTEACHABLE SPIRIT

- 1. Opinionated people rarely keep friends. They _____ in airing their own opinions (Prov. 18:2).
- 2. They love to talk about their experiences. Don't _____ to be somebody (Prov. 12:9).
- 3. They are not good listeners, but would rather talk and give answers, before they listen (Prov. 18:13).
- 4. They cannot receive _____ easily, but are defensive (Prov. 13:13).
- 5. The unteachable will throw up other issues to cloud the one at hand.
- 6. They constantly undermine those Leaders over them, and often try to see decisions reversed. Like Korah, they are often respected community Leaders (Num. 16; Jude 11).
- 7. Dealing with problems in the lives of the unteachable can be difficult as they often

ask for more definitions and examples: they ask, "What do you mean?" when the problem is crystal clear.

8. The unteachable know better and want to be the _____ instead of the disciple.
9. After long arguments, they will back away due to tiredness, but return again the following week, still arguing.
10. They are always looking for an alternative explanation to the one given.
11. When corrected, they feel victimised and wonder, "Why is it always me?"
12. People need them, but they do not need others.
13. Unteachable people feel they are always a special case.
14. When things do not go their way, they show annoyance and get depressed.
15. They are theorists.
16. They say, "You don't understand me!" This means, in other words, "You won't agree with me!"
17. They often say, "God told me," thinking this will add weight to their argument.
18. When corrected, they say, "I'll pray about it." To obey is better than _____ (1 Sam. 15:22; Prov. 19:16).
19. They claim they have their own conscience, but of course this cannot apply where the government of the Church is concerned.
20. The unteachable find it difficult to receive from people they know.
21. They always hear for others, but not for themselves.
22. They say they have heard it all before, never thinking that if it is being said again, then perhaps God is saying something to them.
23. They are not responsive to prophecy. Their response is, "Oh! It's him again!"
24. The unteachable do not have a submissive spirit towards authority.
25. They get bored at meetings because, after all, they consider theirs to be THE important ministry!

Having just one or two of these symptoms does not necessarily mean he or she is unteachable as we all have attitudes and weaknesses. However, it does help us spot the unteachable when a number of these symptoms are continually manifested. It is wise regularly to _____ ourselves to see if we are still in the faith (2 Cor. 13:5; 1 Cor. 11:28).

Church is the greatest place on Earth when the people have good attitudes and allow themselves to be disciplined in a scriptural manner. So let us be obedient. Let us not

only be disciples ourselves, but go into all the world and make disciples of others, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded (Matt. 28:19-20).