

THE MISSION:

We glorify GOD by MAKING DISCIPLES of ALL nations!

(Matthew 28:18-20)

As Disciples We...

- **Imitate Christ's love for the Father**
- **Imitate Christ's commitment to Discipleship**
- **Imitate Christ's passion in serving the World**

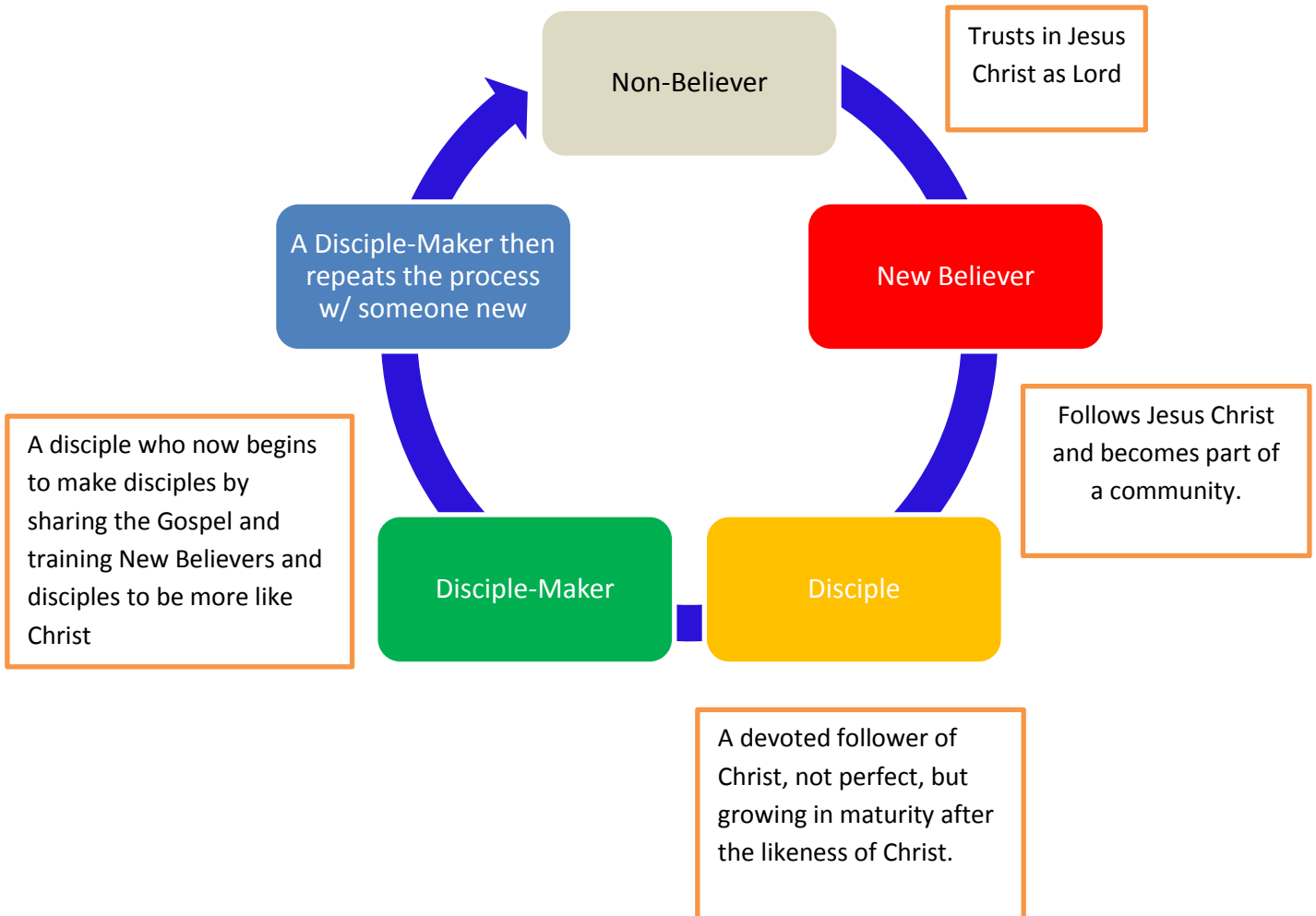
What is a Disciple?

The definition of a **disciple** is simple: **A follower of Christ**. At Randall Church we believe that as followers of Jesus, the most important part of our lives is our relationship with God. The Great Commandment (Matt. 22:38-39) says that we should **love the Lord our God** with all of heart, soul, and mind. We believe that Christ gave us the perfect example in doing this. Therefore, **we should imitate him**. It is our desire that every person at this church will experience a rich and deep relationship with God, through Christ, and will humbly and obediently walk with him.

The Great Commandment continues to explain that as followers of Christ we should love our neighbor as we love ourselves. **This is why we are committed to making disciples!** There is no better way to love someone else than to show them how to love the Father. We believe that **Community Groups** are a great way to be involved in discipleship. Community Groups offer an encouraging atmosphere in which we learn to love God and be like Jesus, together. By being a part of, leading, or inviting others to a Community Group you are taking steps in obeying Christ's command to both be a disciple and to make disciples! We use **The Living House** as a model that Community Groups and church attenders can teach through, as each "room" in the house describes an area that every disciple of Christ should be growing in!

Every disciple of Christ should **take Christ's example in serving the world**. Christ came to earth as a **SERVANT**. He constantly showed compassion to those in need around him. He fed the poor, healed the sick, and show kindness and mercy to those who didn't deserve it. Ultimately he went to the cross and died for sinners like us. Here at Randall Church we want everyone to constantly be looking for ways to serve the world around us. Whether it is **feeding the hungry** with a Community Group, going on a **MISSION TRIP** to take **medical care** to the **poor** in a developing country, or **serving your next-door neighbor** we should all be looking for ways to show Christ's love to a world that desperately needs it!

Discipleship Process



"THE LIVING HOUSE"

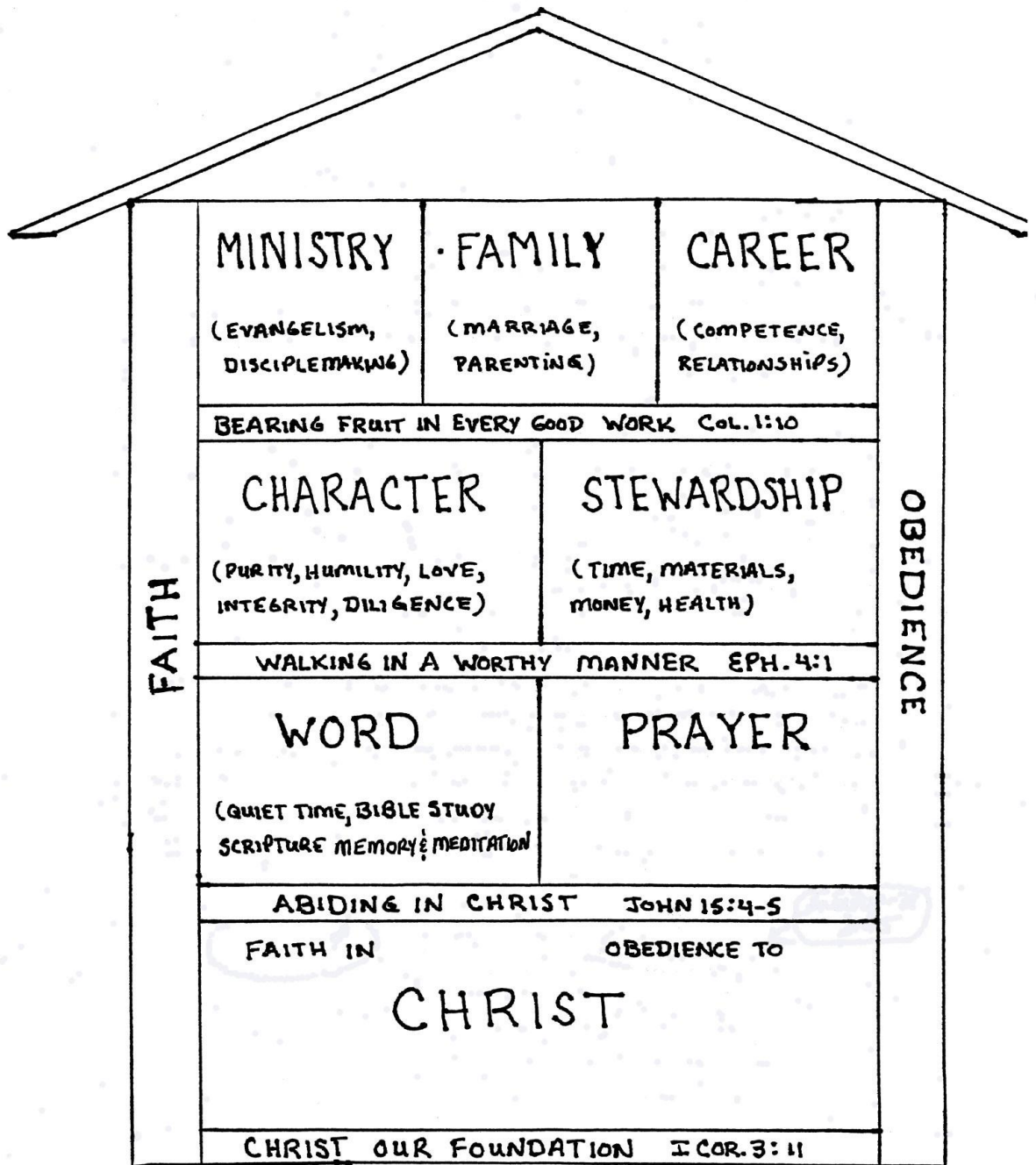


FIGURE 4. DYNAMICS, PRACTICES, AND STANDARDS INTEGRATED IN THE LIFE OF A MATURE DISCIPLE OF CHRIST.

The Living House

A great model for discipleship is the Living House. The house represents the disciple's life, with each room of the house devoted to a different area of life and faith. Every disciple can continue to grow in each of these areas for a lifetime, as we will never be done growing into the image of Christ in this life! Below is a short description of the importance of each "room" of the house.

Christ as Foundation- 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 says,

"For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire"

Our entire life as a disciple of Christ is to be lived to his glory. There is no area of our life that he doesn't reign over and lay claim to. We are completely his. It is important that we realize that he is the very foundation of our faith "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. (Romans 11:36)

The Walls of the House- Faith and Obedience

Faith- It is our faith in Christ which saves us, and nothing else. Ephesians 2:8-9 says "...by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Faith is essential to the disciple's life as it is by our faith that we have a relationship with Christ.

Wayne Grudem explains in his *Systematic Theology* that true saving faith involves knowledge, approval, and personal trust. We must *know* the facts about Jesus Christ in order to put our faith in him, but knowledge alone is not enough, for many people know about Jesus. As disciples we take it a step further than knowledge, we *approve* that the facts about Jesus Christ as explained in the Bible are true. However, approval doesn't quite cut it either. The disciple puts their *faith* in Jesus Christ to save. This involves entering into a relationship with Jesus Christ as a living person. In short, saving faith is trust in Jesus Christ as a living person for forgiveness of sins and for eternal life with God.

Obedience- Obedience to Christ is a key component in a disciple's life. The greatest commandment is "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."(Matt. 22:37) Jesus Christ deserves our love, and demands it. He also deserves our obedience; in fact Jesus says "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." So we see that our love of Christ and our obedience to him are inseparable, they are flip sides of the same coin. There are many different ways that we are to obey Christ, but most importantly we are to love him, when we do that obedience tends to take care of itself.

Abiding in Christ- Word and Prayer

Abiding in Christ once we have believed in him is very important in the disciple's life. Two ways that we can do this are 1.) Abiding in Christ through the Word, and 2.) Abiding in Christ through Prayer.

Word- 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." Therefore the Bible is essential to our life in Christ! Getting to know God through his word can be done in a variety of ways: Quiet times, Bible study, meditation, reading, memorizing, etc. Abiding in Christ through his word is essential, and is the main way to continue to connect with God by learning about him and worshipping him through his word.

Prayer- Prayer at its most basic is simply talking to God, and it is an amazing privilege that we have to interact with the God of the universe. The Bible has much to say about prayer but most importantly prayer should be focused on God's glory, his will and his kingdom rather than our own. We are promised that whenever we pray according to these things that God is faithful to answer our prayers. There is literally nothing we shouldn't be prayerful about as Phil. 4:6-8 encourages us "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Walking in a Worthy Manner- Character and Stewardship

In Ephesians 4:1 Paul challenges the church by saying "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called..." and to do so as a unified body, bearing with one another. We are encouraged time and time again in Scripture to live a life that is in line with who we are in Christ. The two rooms of the house related to this are Character and Stewardship.

Character- Our character is to reflect our new identity in Christ. We are no longer slaves to sin, but have been set free to live a life pleasing to Christ. We are not perfect yet, but are being made perfect as the Holy Spirit changes us. God hasn't left it up to us to live holy lives on our own, but in the keeping of his promise made in Ezekiel 36 has done this: "...a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules." Therefore, we are now able to live pure and holy, full of love, integrity and diligence.

Stewardship- As we covered earlier, everything about us is now Jesus Christ's, whenever we accept him as Lord. God has given all of us time, talents and treasures. We are accountable to him for how we use them for his glory! We should make the best use of our time, money, talents, health, and other blessings to further his kingdom! Christ commands his disciples in Matthew 6, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Bearing Fruit in Every Good Work- Ministry, Family, and Career

Christ has promised to make us fruitful as we live in obedience to him, and this pleases him (Col. 1:10). Three areas of our life that we bear fruit in are our ministry, family and career. Oftentimes there is lots of overlap between these three areas as they are interconnected in a variety of ways, but they can be discussed as three distinct "rooms"

Ministry- Christ's last command to his disciples before he ascended to heaven was to "Go and make disciples of all nations..." We do this through evangelism (sharing the gospel) and discipleship (teaching others to follow Christ). Once again, Christ is with us! He promised his disciples in John 15 "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you." So clearly it is Christ's will that his disciples be fruitful and make disciples that will abide in him as well!

Family- Family is a very important part of our lives! A man and woman becoming husband and wife is an amazing privilege that has many, many implications on our lives. God created man to be the leader and head of the home, and created woman to be his helper. Both are equal, but have different roles, and we glorify God together! As disciples of Christ we are to raise our children to love God. Discipleship begins in the home, and a godly family is the centerpiece of a fruitful life.

Career- As disciples of Christ we can have a variety of different careers. It doesn't matter if we're a doctor, lawyer, mailman, or a soldier we are to work to the glory of God. We can do this by being hard, smart workers who use their career as an opportunity to honor God. The workplace can be an awesome atmosphere for discipleship as it is here that we spend a majority of our time and can live faithfully to the Lord through our work!