

Harrison Baptist Association

Newsletter

The 7-Fold Path to True Discipleship: A Conservative View

By John Mohler DOM

Discipleship is often misunderstood in today's church. It is not merely a class, nor is it a casual, occasional drop-in visit. True discipleship is the **lifelong process of following Jesus Christ in obedience, growing in His Word, and helping others do the same**. A disciple is a committed follower whose entire life is shaped by the teachings of Jesus.

The Biblical call is clear: *"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me"* (Luke 9:23). This demands **obedience over sentiment and faithfulness to Christ above culture, convenience, or comfort**.

While the Bible does not offer a simple checklist, Scripture reveals a clear pattern for the transformed life. To ensure we are not just feeding ourselves but actively reproducing, we must embrace these seven essential components of true discipleship:

The 7 Cs of True Discipleship

1. **Call of Christ – Salvation:** Discipleship begins with a genuine conversion: repentance and faith in Jesus Christ (Mark 1:14-15). You cannot grow as a disciple until you first belong to Christ.
2. **Cost of Discipleship – Surrender:** Jesus is not simply "added" to one's life—He becomes Lord of it. This involves denying self, taking up your cross, and yielding every area of your life to Christ (Luke 9:23).
3. **Content of Discipleship – Scripture:** The Word is the foundation of discipleship. A disciple must read Scripture daily, study it seriously, and apply it consistently (Joshua 1:8, 1st Timothy 4:15-16).
4. **Community of Discipleship – Church:** Discipleship is not a solo sport. We are commanded not to neglect meeting together (Hebrews 10:25). This includes regular worship, accountability, serving, and sitting under biblical preaching. The latest statistic shows the average churchgoer attends only 1.6 times a month—that is simply not enough for a disciple.
5. **Character of Discipleship – Holiness (Sanctification):** Holiness is not optional (1 Peter 1:16). A disciple's life must show increasing Christlikeness, victory over sin, and the Spirit-produced fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

6. **Commitment of Discipleship – Service:** Every believer has a God-given role to use their gifts for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:7). Service proves faith is genuine and fulfills the command to teach, evangelize, and serve (Matthew 28:19-20).
7. **Commission of Discipleship – Sharing (Reproduction):** True discipleship multiplies. "Go" is an action word with no stop in it (Matthew 28:19). A disciple is never meant to just receive; they are to reproduce by sharing the gospel and discipling new believers.

If we leave any of these out, we don't have true discipleship. Most of our current Discipleship classes only feed ourselves, without reproducing.

A Final Challenge: The Parable of the Talents

Jesus has entrusted us, His servants, with His property (Matthew 25:14-30). The question for all of us is: *What are we doing with Jesus' property?*

The parable shows that two servants multiplied what they were given, earning the praise, **"Well done, good and faithful servant"**. But the third, who hid his one talent out of fear, was rebuked as a **"wicked and slothful servant"**.

This parable begs the crucial question: **Can we truly be a servant of Jesus Christ and be unfaithful?**

The Bible offers a strong warning:

- "They **profess to know God, but deny him by their works**. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work" (Titus 1:16).
- Jesus also declares, "I know your works: You're neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So because you are **lukewarm**, and neither hot nor cold, **I will vomit you out of my mouth**" (Revelation 3:15-16).

The answer for those who have fallen is clear: **"Remember therefore from where you have fallen: repent, and do the work you did at first (Repeat). If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent"** (Revelation 2:5). These verses remind us that Jesus knows what we are doing and He gives us the answer on how we should respond.

If we believe the promises of Jesus, then we know that He has promised us success. Yet, the laborers are few: **"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest"** (Matthew 9:37-38).

We must pause, pray, take time to examine our church activities and our lives, and see if they are truly **reproducing**. If they are not, we ought to ask hard questions: How can we change to become multipliers and disciple-makers? Start with deep earnest prayer.

My deepest longing is to hear those words, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Do you share that longing?

I would be glad to sit down with you and help to examine and make a plan.

From the heart of John Mohler DOM

Think about this: "If you or I answer that in first person-Because I..." we've immediately gone wrong, " Because I believe, because I have faith, because I prayed a prayer, because I'm a good person, because I am this, because I did that..." The only proper answer is in the third person: "Because He...", "Because Jesus...", "Because he said I could come. The man on the middle cross-he said I could come. He died on the cross in my place. " Alistair Begg The Man on the Middle Cross

Our beacon was supposed to go out at the end of November. But unfortunately, we only received responses from one church and two responses from committees.

So, I am sending out this newsletter instead. Be very interested to know what you think of this format, this may be something we consider going forward. But I felt like we should share the information we received. So here it is.

Coffey Baptist Church

"At Christmas, all roads lead home."

— Marjorie Holmes

Operation Christmas Child Ohhh such giving hearts. Coffey Baptist was able to prepare 72 Christmas Shoeboxes this year. We sent them off with loads of love and prayers!

On that same day, November 24th, we enjoyed our Church Thanksgiving Worship Service with dinner following. There was over 90 in attendance for this special occasion. We are truly thankful & blessed!

The young kids and youth will soon be working on our annual Christmas Eve Program followed by the Candlelight Service. Josh, Hannah and Wendy put a lot of work into this...and it is soooo good. Throughout the entire service it is illuminated by just candlelight! It's beautiful!

Coffey young ones (4th thru 6th grade) are jumping into Bible Drill this year. They are meeting on Sunday evenings at 6:00.

Also, our Youth are meeting at 6:00 - 7:30 on Sunday evenings. **Any youth from any church are welcome to come!** The fellowship is great! This is an Ignyte Worship sponsored weekly event. They eat, play games, sing and have an awesome bible study.... Who knows.... You may even win a prize!

"Ignyte Worship" If your church would like an evening of praise, fellowship and God's Word...just contact Ignyte Worship! Josh and Hannah Silver would be thrilled to set up a date with your kids (adults are welcome too!). Just give them a call to set up your night to "set your youth on fire for the Lord!" Josh: (660) 605-3354 or Hannah: (660) 605-3219.

Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study is once again starting at 6:00, **as our evening fellowship dinners have resumed!** (Please bring a covered dish). This is open for all ages. Please join us for food, fellowship and bible study. We are studying "Song of Solomon." Looking forward to seeing you there! We'll save you a seat!

During our Sunday morning worship services, Pastor Tim has been leading us through the book of "Revelation." Come see what the Disciple John will be revealing to us, through Tim's message(s), of this cryptic book and marvel at its magnificent imagery along the way. Sunday School starts at 10:30 and Church Services at 11:30.

The "HBA Pickers" have gathered a couple of times here at Coffey, in preparation for the 5th Sunday Praise Sing at Gilman City Baptist Church. They are ready to present 3 songs. **Remember the "HBA Pickers" will be meeting the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00, here at Coffey.** Roger will keep all the regular folks posted on any date/time changes. Again, if you are at all interested in joining the HBA "Pickers", please contact Roger for more information (660-334-0100). You are always welcome! There is room for all talents...singing, playing an instrument or just enjoying the camaraderie of Christian brothers and sisters.

Rejoicing in the miracle of Christmas with you,

Cindy Barker

Greetings All,

Though it is the off season the joint camp committee is working on some improvements for the 2026 camp season. They are working on a handbook for volunteers, to help guide in improving the camp week.

The upcoming camp year training date have been set for March 7, 2026 at Gilman City FBC. More info to come.

Unfortunately, the new camp-wise software we were excited about fell short of what we needed, so Brad has decided to reject the purchase for now.

The Grand Oaks, building committee has met with an architect and is working to get the ball rolling on the new multi-purpose building. There are still many things to be done, but God willing they are hoping to begin construction next year. The number one obstacle at this time is funding. More information will be coming soon about how your Church can help.

We are excited to announce the 2026 Children's Camp theme has been approved by the community and prayer and planning is underway. Please keep the 2026 camp planning in your prayers.

God Bless,

Bobbie Johnson

Joint camp committee secretary

Bobbiejohnson123182@yahoo.com

The Women's Fall Singspiration: took place on Thursday, October 16 at the Bethany First Baptist Church. Eighty-four women were in attendance for an evening of worship and fellowship. We enjoyed a soup buffet and charcuterie board as well as pumpkin spice cupcakes, apple slices with both cream cheese dip and caramel for dessert. The meal took place in the beautiful new addition to the church. Women were invited to bring items for the Harrison County Food Pantry and several boxes of items were donated. The scripture for the evening was Psalm 34:8, "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him." Following the meal, we moved into the sanctuary for the program. Our worship leaders were Jennifer Heintz and Julie Kunce (Both from Bethany 1st) and Wendy Wilson (Coffee Baptist Church/Prairie Chapel) shared her testimony. Sherri Joyce (Bethany 1st) led us in an activity called This or That and followed it by reminding us that while we are all different in our preferences, if we are Christians, what we have in common is our identity in Christ. We closed the evening with our door prize giveaways. Our WMU planning group put together 3 themed baskets (cookie, hot drink, & soup) for the giveaway. Cindy Barker gave away 7 of her framed scripture photos (each had a special story). Also donated were two mums from Gospel Farms, a lunch tote filled with food containers, & 4 mystery gifts donated by Debbie Bennett. A treat bag with a tract, fall themed candies, and soup spoon were given out as women exited. (For those that were there...I misspoke last night. I meant to say I loved light up things AND I loved my soup spoons, not that the soup spoons would light up. Sorry if you were disappointed!) Thanks to Bethany First Baptist Church for allowing us to hold this event at their church. Also, thanks to Levi Joyce for running the sound/technology for us and to Renee Terhune, Sheila Mohler, Libby Mohler, Sarah Williamson, Debbie Bennett, and Sheri Joyce for all their hard work.

Submitted by Susan Ward

This sums up all the reports that were given to us. I will be sending out an article called "The Healthy Church" as I am working on it now. It will be done soon. It may only come out by email. Let me know if you would like it emailed to you personally. Our email here at Harrison Baptist Association is hba@grm.net feel free to reach out to us. Also, you can go to our web to keep up with all updates on the calendar www.harrisonbaptist.com.

One of my jobs as Director of Missions is to help our churches and equip them to build the kingdom. We're stronger, when we work together in unity and harmony. The associational constitution says under our purpose statement "The purpose of this association shall be to promote unity and harmony among the churches, to develop and recommend measures as are designed to strengthen the churches in advance the Kingdom of Christ throughout the world."

At our annual meeting our theme for this year was Seeking God's glory as Moses stood on the mountain and asked God to show him His glory. I pray that you seek God in all that you do, all that you say and all that you are.

John Mohler DOM

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Alistair Begg The Man on the Middle Cross