

Discipleship Discovering The New Life in Christ. The Eternal Triangle or The Tools for the Job Part 1. Dated and shared in September 1992 with SCF \*

We started this series (Dennis is referring to **Discipleship – A Starting Place Parts 1 & 2, undated**) by examining what a disciple was and we saw from scripture that a disciple was *one who followed a teacher*. In our case one who followed the life and the teachings of Jesus Christ. Disciples are born again, by the Holy Spirit, baptised in water and with the Holy Spirit in the same way as Jesus was.

Most modern celebrities have their disciples, who can also be fanatical in their *worship* to an extreme, their idols are visual and verbal and are constantly in focus, the Christian disciple however, does not have the same response to Jesus, He is invisible and speaks His Word through the life of others.

There were three characteristics of the disciples of Jesus.

### **1. Repentance**

The willingness to change the old life for the new life, not just in word but also in deed. Repentance is here to stay for as long as we are in this human temple we have faith towards God, His way in place of my old way (dead works) step by step and day by day, until finally I become like Him.

### **Matthew 3 verse 1-2**

*Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

### **Acts 2 verse 37-40**

*Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

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*39 For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." 40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"*

### **Acts 17 verse 29-31**

*Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. 30 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."*

### **Revelation 2 verse 5**

*Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place - unless you repent.*

### **Revelation 3 verse 19**

*Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.*

## **2. Obedience**

Trust and obey, for there is no other way. The words of an old hymn. It is true that we are to obey our Leader, Jesus Christ. Discipleship is based on these two principles, right through our Christian life, until such time as He returns, yet we can hasten His return as we obey Him.

## **3. Fruitfulness**

This comes as the Word of God is heard and has free course in our lives. We shall be as fruitful or successful as we are obedient to the Word of God.

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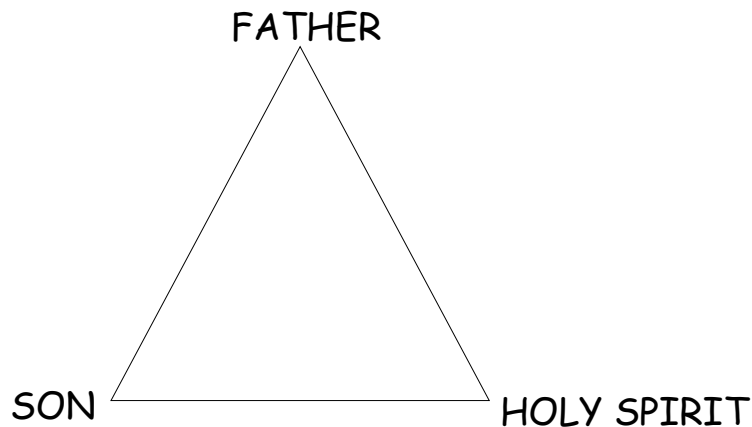
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## **John 15 verse 1-5**

*"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.*

### **The Eternal Triangle or the Tools for the Job**

God has given us a task and tools to carry out the task. The tools are gifts of character and gifts of action. They are free gifts and are given as by the triune God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



## **Romans 12 verse 6-8**

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.*

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*If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 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.*

These gifts include serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, mercy, grace, faith.

For further reading see **1 Corinthians 12** and **Ephesians 4**.

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