

# CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF DISCIPLESHIP

**Foundations for Life in Christ and  
Leadership in the Church**

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## The Mission of MBC

We glorify God by making disciples and multiplying churches among all nations,  
beginning in greater Washington, D.C.

## The Mission of Our Lives

- To enjoy God's grace in a relationship with Him.
- To exalt God's glory to the ends of the earth.

## How Do We Accomplish This Mission?

- We glorify God by growing as disciples of Jesus.
- We glorify God by making disciples of Jesus.
- We glorify God by multiplying churches that reflect Jesus.

## Where Do We Accomplish This Mission?

- Among all nations.

## One Conclusion...

- To be a disciple of Jesus is to let His global cause dictate everything you think, desire, and do.

## One Question...

- Do we really believe the Bible?
  - What the Bible says about the church?
  - What the Bible says about the lost?

## The Story of Scripture...

- The Bible is the story of how God redeems His people for His kingdom.
- God is bringing His people to His place for His purpose.

## Walking with God...

- Praise: Worship God for who He is.
- Repent: Confess your sin to God and acknowledge your need for Jesus.
- Ask: Petition for specific needs in your life and others' lives.
- Yield: Surrender your life to following Jesus wherever and however He leads you.
  
- Focus on God.
- Abstain from food.
- Substitute the time with prayer and meditation on God's Word.
- Taste and see that God is good.
  
- Meditate and Memorize.
- Apply.
- Pray.
- Share.

## CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF DISCIPLESHIP

- As we pray, fast, meditate on God's Word, and apply it to our lives, the Holy Spirit transforms our lives to look more and more like Jesus.

*<sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever — " <sup>23</sup> therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup> He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.*

*Genesis 3:22-24*

*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.*

*Revelation 22:1-4*

*As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;  
when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.*

*Psalms 17:15*

*<sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*

*1 John 3:2-3*

*<sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

*Romans 8:28-30*

*<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*

*Philippians 3:20-21*

*<sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*

*Colossians 3:9-10*

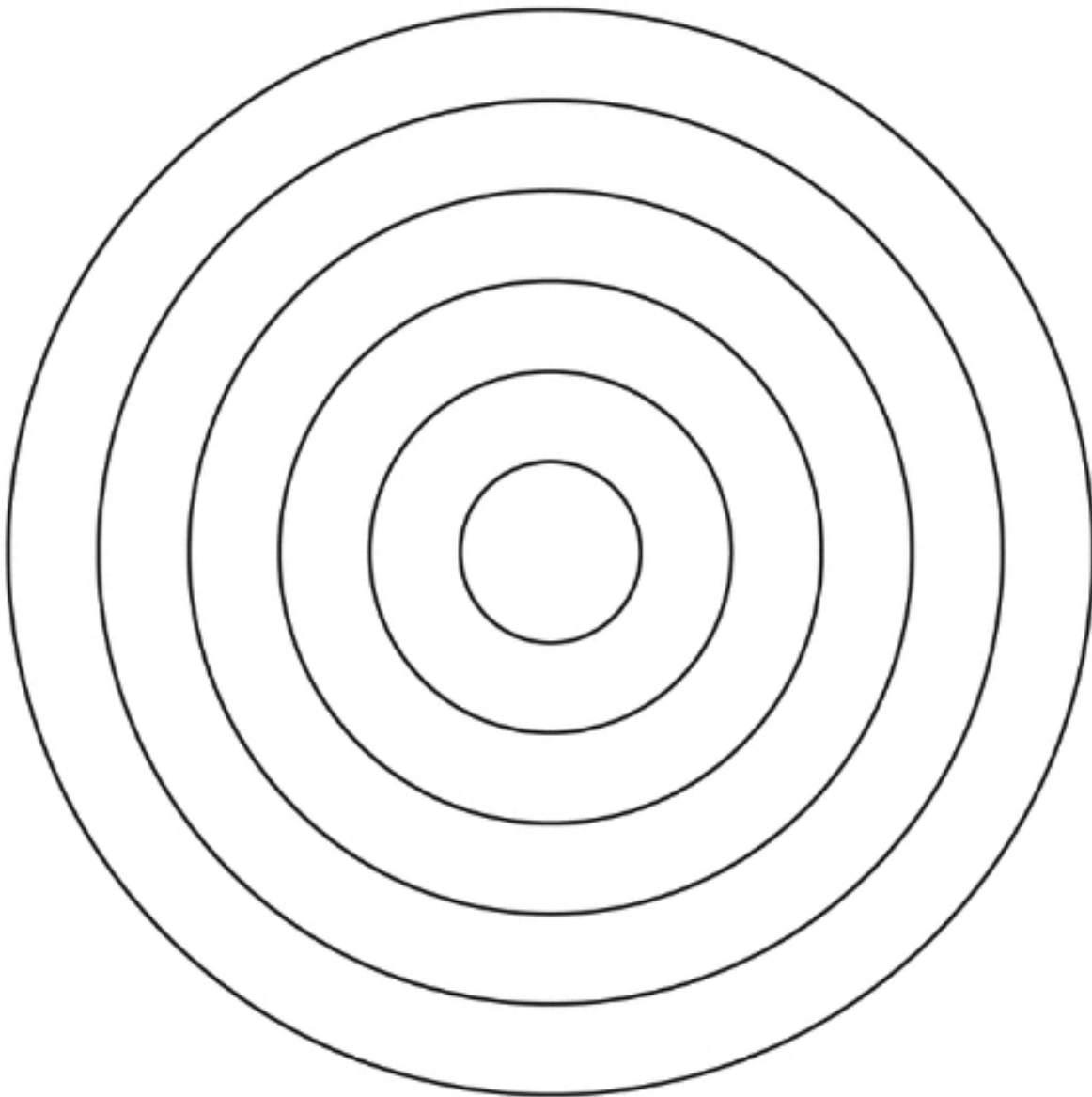
<sup>3</sup>His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup>by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

2 Peter 1:3-4

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18

- This process of spiritual transformation occurs from the inside out.



## A Transformed HEART

- A Christian is a new creation: Jesus now lives in them AND transforms everything about them.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.  
2 Corinthians 5:17*

*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.  
Galatians 2:20*

- We are forgiven of our sin AND filled with God's Spirit.

*<sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. <sup>26</sup> And I will give you 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. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.  
Ezekiel 36:25-27*

- We are acquitted by God the Judge AND adopted by God the Father.

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

*<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,...  
Romans 8:14-16*

- We are servants of Jesus AND heirs of His kingdom.

*Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus...  
Romans 1:1*

*<sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.  
Romans 8:16-17*

- Initial faith in Jesus at a point in time leads to continual growth in Jesus through a process over time.

**A Transformed MIND**  
**We are growing to *think* as Jesus *thinks*.**

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

*Romans 12:2*

- What you think determines how you live.

*As he thinks within himself, so he is.*

*Proverbs 23:7*

- The battle for Christlikeness begins in our mind.

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*

*Matthew 22:37*

*We have the mind of Christ.*

*1 Corinthians 2:16*

*Be renewed in the spirit of your mind.*

*Ephesians 4:23*

*Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

*Colossians 3:2*

*Take every thought captive to obey Christ.*

*2 Corinthians 10:5*

*Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

*Philippians 4:8*

- As we meditate on God's Word, God's Spirit molds our minds to become like His.

*<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

*Isaiah 55:8-9*

*Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.*

*Romans 8:5-6*

**Transformed AFFECTIONS**  
**We are growing to *desire* what Jesus *desires*.**

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*  
Matthew 22:37

- Jesus has not only saved us from our sin; Jesus has \_\_\_\_\_ **satisfied** \_\_\_\_\_ our souls.

*Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."*  
John 6:35

- We participate in spiritual disciplines not only because they are our duty; spiritual disciplines are our \_\_\_\_\_ **delight** \_\_\_\_\_.

*O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.*  
*My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.*  
Psalm 63:1-8

- We \_\_\_\_\_ **enjoy** \_\_\_\_\_ the exaltation of God in worship.
  - We crave communion with God in prayer.
  - We \_\_\_\_\_ **hunger** \_\_\_\_\_ for God's Word more than daily food.
  - We confess our sins in grateful contrition.
  - We \_\_\_\_\_ **love** \_\_\_\_\_ God's glory more than life.
- Ever-increasing love for God leads to ever-decreasing love for the things of this \_\_\_\_\_ **world** \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.  
1 John 2:15-17

- We daily crucify the desires of the \_\_\_\_\_ **flesh** \_\_\_\_\_ in us as we cultivate the fruit of the \_\_\_\_\_ **Spirit** \_\_\_\_\_ in us.

<sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep



you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:16-24

## A Transformed WILL We are growing to *walk* as Jesus *walks*.

By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

1 John 2:6

- We walk as Jesus walks by \_\_\_\_\_ **doing** \_\_\_\_\_ what Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ **commands** \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love...<sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you.

John 15:8-14

- We don't merely hear the Word and so \_\_\_\_\_ **deceive** \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves; we do what it says.

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

James 1:22-25

- We see \_\_\_\_\_ **imperatives** \_\_\_\_\_ in Scripture as \_\_\_\_\_ **invitations** \_\_\_\_\_ from our Savior to experience the joy of active submission to Him.

<sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

- The more we walk according to God's \_\_\_\_\_ Word \_\_\_\_\_, the more Jesus conforms our \_\_\_\_\_ ways \_\_\_\_\_ to His will.

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

*If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*

Galatians 5:25

*For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

Romans 8:14

### Transformed RELATIONSHIPS We are growing to love as Jesus loves.

<sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:12-13

<sup>16</sup> By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

<sup>17</sup> But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

1 John 3:16-18

- Supreme love for God leads to \_\_\_\_\_ selfless \_\_\_\_\_ love for others.

<sup>37</sup> And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22:37-40

- We care for others \_\_\_\_\_ compassionately \_\_\_\_\_.
- We forgive others freely.
- We treat others honorably.
- We serve others \_\_\_\_\_ humbly \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup> therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Matthew 9:36-38

- We join together as members of local churches where we love one another by laying down our lives for each other.

<sup>34</sup> *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.* <sup>35</sup> *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*

*John 13:34-35*

- Beyond the local church, Jesus completely transforms the way we love our families, the lost, and the poor.

### Transformed PURPOSE

**We are growing to make disciples who make disciples who make disciples of all nations.**

- Compelled by God's grace, we are captivated by the Great Commission.

<sup>18</sup> *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore 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> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

*Matthew 28:18-20*

- Jesus has not only transformed our way of life; Jesus has revolutionized our reason for living.

<sup>9</sup> *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

*Revelation 7:9-10*

### Practical Takeaway

- Identify one area of your life in which you can become more like Jesus, then plan and take intentional steps to grow in Christlikeness in that way.