



Equipped Disciples Resource Series

Top 10 Truths for Modern Christians

At One Eight Catalyst, we have a heart to help Christians grow spiritually and find how God wants to use them to reach their world for Christ. In that pursuit, we've developed ten truths we talk a lot about to get Christians thinking and moving in the right direction. In this worksheet, we present our Top 10 Truths for Modern Christians and suggest that you go through each of the 10 Truths, complete with Scripture references for you to do a Bible study on these truths leading to application in your life. Enjoy, and let us know how these truths helped you find Great Commission fulfillment!

1. The Bible is the authoritative, infallible and inspired Word of God.

The Bible is authoritative because it is God's word and He has all authority. As John Frame, professor of Systematic Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando crisply states, "There is no higher authority, no greater ground of certainty... The truth of Scripture is a presupposition for God's people."

The word infallible means "incapable of error." 2 Peter 1:19-21

2 Timothy 3:16 is our favorite passage around the inspiration of the Bible, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."

2. Jesus Christ is not only Savior but also Lord and Master of those who have received and believed in Him.

To be a 'child of God' according to John 1, one must 'receive him (Jesus) and believe in his name. For those who have believed and received, we know from John 3 'that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.' So He is our Savior, but He is also, as we read in Jude 1, 'our only Master and Lord.'

3. For those who have received Jesus as Lord, and believed in His name, God calls us to be fully devoted disciples of Christ.

For anyone who receives Christ and believes in His name, Jesus makes it clear in Luke 9 that "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." This is a call to complete surrender to Christ. We see this played out so beautifully in the life of the apostle Paul. In Philippians 1 he declares that "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." And again in Galatians 2, "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."

4. The biblical purpose of the local church is to glorify God by worshipping Him, by equipping his people, by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus to the whole world, and by making disciples through the baptizing and teaching of new believers.

In this One Eight Catalyst definition of the biblical purpose of the local church, we see four ways that the local church should be glorifying God. We glorify God because He is worthy to be glorified. As we read in Psalm 86:9, "All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name." The first way this should happen is through the worship of God in spirit and truth. John 4:23 comes to mind here, "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him." The equipping of His people is clearly a way the local church glorifies Him. Paul makes this clear in Ephesians 4:11-13, "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Jesus Himself in Mark 16 commands us to "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation," and we all know Christ command in Matthew 28, "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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

5. As Christians who are often telling Jesus we love Him, we show our love by knowing and obeying His commands.

Writing about Jesus, John states in 1 John 4 that “We love because he first loved us.” Because we love Him, Jesus gives an important qualifier on how to tell if we love Jesus. Jesus states in John 14 that “Whoever has my commands and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” It is when we obey Jesus' commands that we show Him our love for Him.

6. God wants to use every Christian to advance His kingdom. Since every move of God begins in prayer, pray about how God would want to use you, and when He answers, obey.

It was D.L. Moody, the great American evangelist of the 1800's who said, “Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure.” As we read Scripture, since there is no indication that He only wants to use some people for the advancement of His Kingdom, assume He wants to use you in a way consistent with your gifts and talents. Pray that God would reveal that to you, then obey His leading. It was Ralph Winter, the founder of the U.S. Center for World Mission who once said that 'only 1 in 1000 people who feel God's call toward ministry involvement actually heed that call. Oh what an impact we could have if 2 out of 1000 obeyed God's call.' Don't be one who hears from God and doesn't obey.

7. People who love Jesus have a lifestyle of telling others about Him and what He has done in their lives. People who don't love Him don't talk to anyone about Him.

We all know Christ's admonition from Matthew 7 that “every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.” As we remain close to Christ, He will use us to tell others about Him. Peter knows all too well about this as he admonishes the churches of Asia minor in 1 Peter 3, “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” Paul likewise gives us a standard for this in Romans 1, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

8. In our world today, 47,000 people die every day never hearing the Gospel once. What you do with that knowledge is between you and God.

With roughly 8300 unreached or minimally reached people groups totaling over 3.4 billion people, it is the resourcing and training of the Christian church to impact these unreached that motivates us. Far too many Christians have no idea that there are still so many without Christ in our world. Jesus statement in John 4 is so completely true, “Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.”

9. Spiritual growth in Christ happens best in an authentic community of like-minded believers who love each other, who are challenged to be more like Christ and live out the 'One Anothers' of Scripture.

There is an immutable New Testament truth that Christian spiritual growth happens best in community with others. As we find a community of people all interested in one another's spiritual well-being, we're called in Romans 12 to “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.” Part of this love calls us, as we read in Hebrews 3 to “take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” This type of fellowship seeks to bring one another into the light and see Jesus healing everyone from all sin.

10. 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 give 22 qualifications for church elders. Make sure elder candidates at your church meet all 22 of the qualifications.

In these two passages of the New Testament, a clear list can be made of the 22 qualifications of a church elder. Given the monumental responsibilities God gives to church elders, churches should make sure that their elders meet all 22 qualifications. These qualifications require the selection of a special man who will meet all these qualifications. Unqualified elders never lead people to a greater degree of faith and obedience than they themselves possess. People who want to grow beyond the limitations of unqualified elders will leave that church.

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