

# What Does a Disciple Look Like?

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What does a disciple look like? We often discuss the importance of making disciples, but have we taken the time to say, “okay this is what a disciple really looks like.”

My boys and I were watching Tiger Woods play in a golf tournament. We discussed how precise and exact his swing was. We got on the course and tried to be like Tiger. Our game did not improve much, but at least we had a good example to follow. Dudley Hall has a reputation of being a good shooter with a shotgun. He has taught me some valuable lessons. I can not shoot like him, but I have learned how to do some things differently and shoot better because I have learned from Dudley. We can evaluate Tiger’s golf swing and Dudley’s shotgun motion simply by saying this is what they do right and this is what they do wrong. I am afraid we have made discipleship too subjective. If we took the time, without judging, to discuss what a disciple of Jesus Christ looks like we could effectively determine if we ourselves are disciples and if we have any among us.

My good friend Gerald Chester wrote a business book entitled *Beyond Babel*. In his book he discussed what he calls **C4**. **C4** is what he describes as four key characteristics to evaluate whether someone is walking in their destiny or not. His approach to the four characteristics is naturally directed to businesses, but is also very applicable to making disciples. Let me illustrate:

The first characteristic is **Calling** – It is a measure of passion. Passion is what drives people to find out what they are supposed to do in life. Jesus said, “I must be about my father’s business”. If you are trying to disciple someone and they do not have an inner witness or a stirring in their heart perhaps they never have encountered Jesus or they are very wounded and need healing in order to determine what their passion is.

The second issues are **Character** – An expression of our beliefs and values are the basis for our life choices. You can not separate a person’s skill from a person’s character. Let’s say you are discipling a brother and ask him to help you with a project. While you are working on the project the brother sloppily does the work yet talks the entire time about how good God is. *Houston, we may have a problem.* Godly character is a definite description of a disciple.

Third **Capability** – This characteristic speaks to the combination of one’s experience, training, aptitudes, and behavior pattern that facilitates doing tasks and/or relating to people. What does capability have to do with discipleship? A good discipler helps those he/she is discipling to work in the area that one is skilled and has aptitude for. In terms of discipleship in the church we tend to think if someone wants to volunteer we put them in the nursery or make them an usher. It would be better if we discovered the skills, behavior and experience of the volunteer and connected them to an area of ministry that would expand the Kingdom rather than fill a spot in your roster.

The last quality is **Commissioning** – Commissioning speaks of giving one authority to do certain acts. Commissioning usually comes from fathers, but can come from teachers, pastors, employers and others. People do not self commission themselves, but when others validate us it gives us the confidence to do what we believe God has called us to do. A good discipler speaks destiny and purpose into those he/she is pouring into.

If you are wondering if you are making disciples, evaluate yourself using **C4**. What is the calling of the person you are working with? Do they have character or are they a character? Help those you are discipling to find the areas they are capable in to serve the body of Christ. Finally, speak honestly into the disciple's destiny. There are so many people who are waiting for someone to bless them and give them authority to serve.