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# The 4 H Club



# The Case for Discipleship

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- I have been missing, misunderstanding something that has suddenly become clear
- **19** [e]Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you [f]always, even to the end of the age.”



# Break It Down

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- MAKE DISCIPLES – not members, not just converts, not “get them to pray a prayer of salvation so they can go to Heaven”
- A Disciple is Someone who becomes like his master; people who carry/reflect and communicate the life of Jesus, so that when others are around them, they can TELL THEY HAVE BEEN WITH JESUS!
- I have completely lost sight of how key this is – apparently it is the point of church life



# Process is Spelled Out

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- Baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit – so they can experience full unity and intimacy with all aspects of God (John 17)
- But here is the MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE COMMISSION, THAT DEFINES AND ACTIVATES EVERYTHING ELSE:
- Teaching them to obey ALL I HAVE COMMANDED YOU



# This is the Great Commandment

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**34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** By this all men will know that you are **My disciples**, if you have love for one another." Jn 13:34



# Refocus Our Identity

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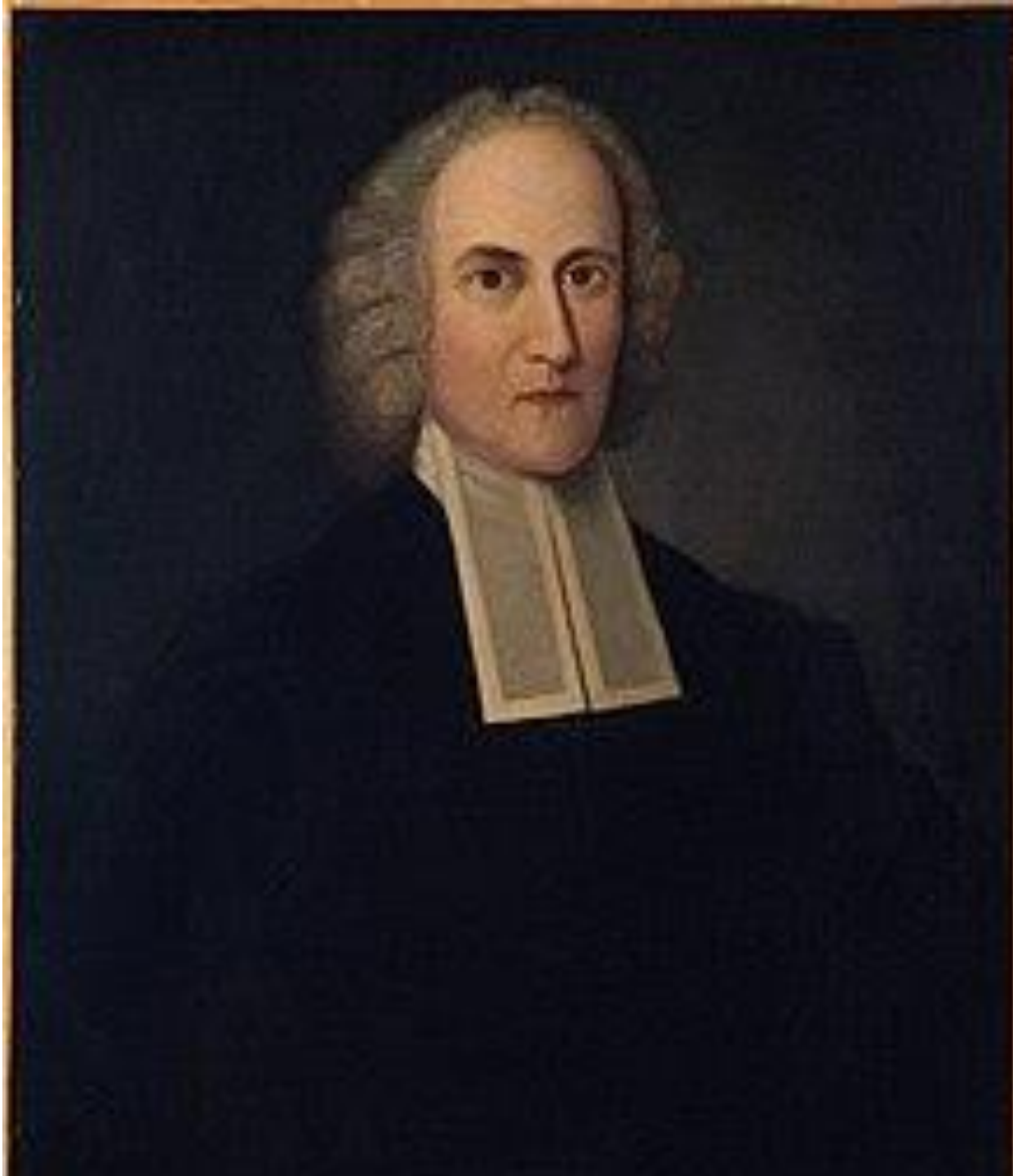
A disciple is someone who keeps this commandment – to love like Jesus loves, and live like Jesus lived, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and fruit of the Holy Spirit, starting with the the love of Jesus – main fruit – this is our design, our ministry, our destiny



So, \$64 Trillion Question Is

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How are disciples made?  
How does one become a  
disciple instead of just  
remaining a convert or a  
church member?



Jonathan  
Edwards  
1703-1758

Sinners in  
the Hands of  
an Angry  
God - 1741





# Bad News Into Good News

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- Edwards - softspoken, erudite Christian philosopher paints a verbal picture of a sinner in the hands of God – describes the eternal state of those without Jesus.
- But ends with a focus on the grace and mercy of Jesus to rescue and redeem us, because those who have placed their faith and complete dependance in Jesus, are no longer considered to be sinners, **but sinners SAVED by grace**, and that is the key!!



# Tale of Two Loves (Faiths?)

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- Self-interested Love – focused on the blessings and benefits which are MINE as the result of being saved (going to Heaven, answered prayers, gifts, provision, protection, etc.)
- You might also call this “transactional faith”
- If I do something for God – accept Him as my Savior – He will do stuff for me
- Primary motivation is blessings and results



# But There is Another ...

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- Disinterested Love – where someone has become so in love with and in awe of God, that they don't even think of their own salvation anymore.
- Rather, they are completely preoccupied with the beauty of God and His nature, desires, ways and purposes.
- Not transactional, but transformational – I am truly changed in my inner desires because of in knowing Him I think less and less about me
- Motivation is Worship, the result is freedom



# Which One Produces Disciples?

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- Disinterested, transformational love/faith
- Why?
- What does it take to move us out of self-interested transactional faith?
- You have to join the 4 H Club
- Involves some process of coming to the end of yourself, so that you are hungry for God and only God
- At this point, everyone has their own story and journey



# The 4 H Journey

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- Helplessness – come to the end of yourself and realize that you are in over your head and you will never be enough
- Hopelessness – despair sets in as you understand that all is lost and you are broken and you don't have a clue what is coming except it is not getting better, maybe worse
- Homesickness – yearning to be somewhere safe where you can find peace and rest in Him
- Healing – in that moment God's grace wraps around you like a blanket and you are home



# Home Where You Belong

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- Healing becomes your permanent Home
- Sometimes called Sanctification, but it is not you learning how to do better, it is you letting God put you back together, time
- Finally safe enough to embrace the reality that you are completely and abjectly insufficient to be anything but weak
- Ready to surrender yourself to His all-consuming, never-ending sufficiency, where living in His love and grace releases wave after wave of hope, help and healing







# Welcome to the 4 H Club

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- Some of you are already members, and your awareness of God's all sufficiency is inspiring worship in your hearts everyday
- Some of you are teetering right on the edge of giving in, still trying so hard to fix everything and still thinking you can stay in control and figure things out
- Some of you – in this moment – are yearning, sensing the Holy Spirit calling you Home





# Simple Prayer

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Lord Jesus, I realize now how desperately I need YOU, and I am ready and willing to let go of everything else in order to receive your healing and be at home with you



# Jesus + Nothing = EVERYTHING

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- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY