



## **SOPC Word of the Month**

July 27, 2022

*This is the first month of a series called "Word of the Month", a ReShape initiative to help us better understand frequently used words in the life of a Christian. An email will be sent out weekly to our members to provide more clarity and examples of how the word is used. If you have further questions, please call the church office to arrange a discussion with Pastor Jana or an elder of Session.*

### **Disciple/ Discipleship**

So far, we have discussed that following Jesus and learning about Jesus are important attributes of being a disciple. This week concludes our discussion about discipleship, and covers the topics of loving Jesus and one another, and seeing Christ as our true measure of life and values.

A disciple is a lover. He must love his Master so much that his love for everything and everyone else is hatred in comparison. Matthew 10:37 says "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me," said Jesus, "is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me". We must love Jesus and each other to be a disciple. Jesus is very clear about this when he says that the new commandments are to love your God with all your heart, soul and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22: 37-40) Without the distinguishing characteristic of love, a Christian is just part of the crowd—a secular crowd at that!

Finally, Jesus announced that a disciple is one who has made Christ our true measure of life and values. David Livingstone, a great missionary of the faith, had as his life motto the words, "I will place no value on anything I have or possess except in its relationship to the kingdom of God." A disciple is content with what he has because he knows it is a gift from God. By his lifestyle alone, a disciple shows others a better way to live—a Kingdom way to live. That's what we members of Seven Oaks, as disciples of Christ, bring to the world.

A disciple isn't a perfect human; A disciple has merely begun to follow a Savior who is perfect in love and humility. We're walking in the footsteps by God's grace, and although we may stumble, we're going to get up and keep following Jesus. That's what discipleship is all about!

*"By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

John 13: 35.