

WHY DOES RAYMOND ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH EXIST?
WHO ARE WE?
WHAT ARE WE ALL ABOUT?

RRBC is here for 5 purposes
from Great Commandment (Matt 22:37-40)
and Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20)

- “The purpose of Raymond Road Baptist Church is to help every person reach MATURITY in Christ. This purpose is to be accomplished
 - by valuing and embracing MEMBERSHIP in God’s Kingdom and in the church,
 - by faithfully participating in such activities that MAGNIFY God,
 - by actively engaging in MINISTRY for the benefit of others, and
 - by answering God’s call to join him in his MISSION of redemption.”
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- MAGNIFY – Worship (“Love the Lord with all your heart”)
 - MINISTRY – Ministry (“Love your neighbor as yourself”)
 - MISSION – Evangelism (“Go and make disciples”)
 - MEMBERSHIP – Fellowship (“Baptizing them”)
 - MATURITY – Discipleship (“Teaching them to obey”)

DISCIPLESHIP

INTRODUCTION

The human body replaces its own cells regularly. Scientists at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, have finally pinned down the speed and extent of this “turnover.” About a third of our body mass is fluid outside of our cells, such as plasma, plus solids, such as the calcium scaffolding of bones. The remaining two thirds is made up of **roughly 30 trillion human cells**. About 72 percent of those, by mass, are fat and muscle, which last an average of 12 to 50 years, respectively. But we have far more, tiny cells in our blood, which live only three to 120 days, and lining our gut, which typically live less than a week. Those two groups therefore make up the giant majority of the turnover. About **330 billion cells are replaced daily**, equivalent to about **1 percent** of all our cells. In 80 to **100 days**, 30 trillion will have replenished—the equivalent of a new you.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/our-bodies-replace-billions-of-cells-every-day/#:~:text=About%20330%20billion%20cells%20are,equivalent%20of%20a%20new%20you.>

- You are either growing or dying
- A disciple of Christ is either becoming MORE like Christ, or becoming LESS like Christ
- Definition: A disciple FOLLOWS along and learns along the way
- You can follow: social media, news outlet, music artist, politician

A DISCIPLE OF JESUS FOLLOWS HIM

- Matthew 28:18-20
- Matthew 4:18-22
- John 15:8-10
- John 8:31-32
- John 12:23-26

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and said to them, “**All authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 **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, 20 **teaching** them to observe **all that I have commanded** you. And behold, **I am with you** always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 4:18-22

18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, “**Follow me**, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 **Immediately** they left their nets and followed him. 21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and **he called them**. 22 **Immediately** they left the boat and their father and **followed him**.

John 15:8–10

8 By this my Father is glorified, that you **bear much fruit** and so prove to be my **disciples**. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Abide in my love**. 10 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.

John 8:31-32

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you **abide in my word**, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the **truth**, and the truth will set you **free**.”

John 12:23-26

23 And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever **hates his life in this world** will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves me, **he must follow me**; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, **the Father will honor him**.

A DISCIPLE OF JESUS KNOWS THE COST

- Luke 14:25-33
- Matthew 10:34-39
- Mark 8:31-37
- Luke 9:57-62

- Luke 9:23-25

Luke 14:25-33

25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not **hate** his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even **his own life**, he **cannot be my disciple**. 27 Whoever does not bear **his own cross** and **come after me** cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does **not first sit down and count the cost**, whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ 31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33 So therefore, any one of you who does not **renounce all that he has** cannot be my disciple.

Matthew 10:34-39

34 “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Mark 8:31-37

31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are **not** setting your mind on **the things of God**, but on the **things of man**.” 34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him **deny himself** and take up his **cross** and **follow me**. 35 For whoever would save his life will **lose it**, but whoever loses his life for my sake and **the gospel’s** will **save it**. 36 For what does it **profit** a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for **his soul**?

Luke 9:57-62

57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will **follow you** wherever you go.” 58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has **nowhere to lay his head**.” 59 To another he said,

“Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me **first** go and bury my father.” 60 And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” 61 Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me **first** say farewell to those at my home.” 62 Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and **looks back** is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Luke 9:23-25

23 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him **deny himself** and take up **his cross daily** and **follow me**. 24 For whoever would save his life will **lose it**, but whoever loses his life for my sake will **save it**. 25 For what does it **profit** a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

A DISCIPLE OF JESUS OBEYS HIS MASTER

- Romans 8:29-30
- 1 Peter 2:21
- 1 Corinthians 11:1
- John 14:15
- John 14:20–21
- John 13:12-17

Romans 8:29-30

29 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. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

1 Peter 2:21

21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you **an example**, so that you might **follow in his steps**.

1 Corinthians 11:1

1 Be **imitators** of me, as I am of Christ.

John 14:15

15 **“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”**

John 14:20–21

20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.
21 Whoever **has my commandments and keeps them**, he it is who loves me.

John 13:12-17

12 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15 For I have given you **an example, that you also should do just as I have done** to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you **if you do them**.

A DISCIPLE OF JESUS REPLICATES THEMSELVES

- Jesus left his heavenly community to come to earth to save us.
- The disciples left their community in Jerusalem to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth.
- And most likely someone in your life left the comfort of their community to invest in you.

- 2 Timothy 2:1-2
- Jesus
- Luke 24:46–48
- Acts 1:6–8
- Peter
- Acts 2:32, 36-39
- Paul
- Acts 26:15–18
- Romans 1:4b–6
- 2 Corinthians 5:11, 14, 15, 18-21

2 Timothy 2:1–2 [PAUL, TO TIMOTHY, TO FAITHFUL MEN, TO OTHERS]

1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have **heard from me** in the presence of many witnesses **entrust to faithful men**, who will be **able to teach others** also.

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS PASSED ALONG
FROM JESUS TO DISCIPLE TO DISCIPLE TO DISCIPLE TO DISCIPLE

Luke 24:46–48 [JESUS]

46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that **repentance** for the forgiveness of sins should be **proclaimed in his name to all nations**, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.

Acts 1:6–8 [JESUS]

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will **be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 2:32, 36-39 [PETER]

32 “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are **witnesses**.

36 “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that **God has made him both Lord and Christ**, this Jesus whom you crucified.” 37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” 38 And Peter said to them, “**Repent and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for **the forgiveness of your sins**, and you will receive the gift of the **Holy Spirit**.

Acts 10:39–43 [PETER]

39 And we are **witnesses** of all that he [Jesus] did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, 40 but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And **he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead**. 43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Acts 26:15–18 [PAUL TO THE GENTILES]

15 And I [Paul] said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 16 But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you

for this purpose, to appoint you as **a servant and witness** to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, 17 delivering you from your people and from **the Gentiles**—to whom I am sending you 18 **to open their eyes**, so that they may turn **from darkness to light** and **from the power of Satan to God**, that they may receive **forgiveness of sins** and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

Romans 1:4b–6 [PAUL TO CHRISTIANS IN ROME]

Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship **to bring about the obedience of faith** for the sake of his name among **all the nations**, 6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

2 Corinthians 5:11, 14, 15, 18-21 [PAUL TO CHRISTIANS IN CORINTH]

11 Therefore, **knowing** the fear of the Lord, **we persuade others**.

14 For **the love of Christ controls us**, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and **he died for all**, that those who live might **no longer live for themselves** but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us **the ministry of reconciliation**; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us **the message of reconciliation**. 20 Therefore, we are **ambassadors** for Christ, God making his appeal **through us**. We implore you on behalf of Christ, **be reconciled to God**. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.