

ABSTRACT

Jesus calls his followers to 'go ... and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28.19). This dissertation seeks to address the question of what authentic disciple-makers ought to look like in the contemporary Church of Ireland context. In order to gauge church members' perceptions of discipleship, field research was conducted in three churches, revealing a discrepancy between people's relationships outside and within church. Through exploring a biblical framework of discipleship, this dissertation argues that a disciple must be rooted in worship, grounded on the Word and equipped towards mission. This requires the disciple to cooperate with the work of the Holy Spirit in their life. Theologically, this occurs through the three phases of salvation: justification, sanctification and glorification. Since God calls the believer to make disciples within their own context, it is important to recognise that relationships are at the heart of the process. It is imperative, therefore, that churches re-evaluate how they support and equip disciples to fulfil their calling in a variety of relational contexts.

DEREK HARRINGTON