

# OUTCOMES OF DISCIPLESHIP

An essential part of our mission at Missio Church is to equip people to live faithful lives of worship. What does this mean? What does it look like to live a faithful life? It is very helpful for us to work from a common answer to these questions. This is why we often refer to our “Five Outcomes of Discipleship” as a description of what it means to follow Jesus.

Below you will find a simple definition for each outcome, followed by a section titled “In Focus,” where we expand upon one of the outcomes, offering some questions to consider and a resource to check out. Our hope is that this brief reminder continues to instruct and unify us around who God has made us to be and what He has called us to do.

## GOD   TRUTH   LOVE   MISSION

### PURSUIT OF GOD

In light of God reconciling us to Himself, there is a detailed knowledge and understanding of God that comes from pursuing Him as our greatest treasure.

### FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The acting presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church that demonstrates the character of God and distinguishes His people from an unbelieving world.

### GRACE STORY

Embracing the fullness of the Gospel and being transformed by it in such a way that we desire to live it out and share it with others.

### SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Discovering who God has uniquely made us to be and surrendering ourselves to His purposes, serving both the Church and the world with the gifts He has given us.

### STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE

Faithfully using everything that God has entrusted us with to reflect His glory.



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# IN FOCUS: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

One of the defining marks of the people of God is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit who empowers us to live a life of faithful worship. As a result of His work in us and by the means of His grace, we put to death the things of the flesh and mature in our love for Him and for others. The Apostle Paul describes this in Galatians 5 with a list of interpersonal qualities including love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. When these qualities are growing in our relationships, both within the body of Christ and in the midst of the world, we bring glory to God and provide a compelling witness for the truth of the gospel.

Our prayer is that, *within the body of Christ*, we would love and serve one another, as 1 Peter 4:8-10 states, "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." We also pray that, *in the midst of the world*, we would follow Christ's commands to love our neighbors as ourselves and to care for those in need.

## REFLECTIONS QUESTIONS

*Before responding below, read Galatians 5:22-25 and 2 Peter 1:3-9 and consider your various spheres of relationships (family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, classmates, etc).*

Where have you seen evidence of God's character in your relationships lately?

In what circumstances have you lacked these attributes?

What do you believe is the underlying cause of this struggle?

How do you need to respond?

## FEATURED RESOURCE: 'THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS...' BY J.V. FESKO *BOOK REVIEW BY MICHELLE SIEBURG*

A natural follow-up to our Pursuit of God is the study of how this pursuit manifests itself in our daily lives. In J. V. Fesko's 'The Fruit of the Spirit Is...' we are given a succinct and approachable overview of how the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of righteousness in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Fruitfulness has always been a product of pursuing and obeying God. The author spends a lot of time reminding us of the Old Testament context from which Paul writes Galatians 5. Paul writes knowing that fruitfulness has and always will come by the work of the Holy Spirit as seen in creation, in the exodus from Egypt and in the foretelling of the Messiah in the book of Isaiah. We cannot accomplish these fruits in our own strength. "We must see that God the Father, by the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, applied by the Holy Spirit, is conforming us to the image of his Son (p. 64)." "Our redemption, pure and simple, is a work of Christ and the Spirit from beginning to end; he is both the author and finisher of our salvation (p. 68)."

So, how can we participate in this work? Fruitfulness is a by-product of meditating on and hearing God's Word, through observing the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper, and through prayer. Pursuing God through these means produces the fruit not just to our benefit, but to edify the Body of Christ, to reach the lost, and ultimately, to glorify God.

This book was a refreshing reminder that growing in righteousness is not a product of my own power. There are no boxes to check off and no "how to have more (list fruit here)" lists to be made. As I surrender daily to the work of the Holy Spirit, He will work these out in me. As I pursue God through His Word, ask for help through prayer and observe the ordinances, I will see the increase.