

# CONVERT OR CONVERT?

"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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." I know that Jesus' apostles had a unique role in spreading the gospel. However, as Christians, it's our privilege and natural response to the grace of God to share the good news of Jesus. We seek to make disciples of Christ by our nature of life in Jesus.

The role of a minister should include constant encouragement concerning sanctification, shining as lights in this world, and sharing the gospel. It's who we are.

As I began composing my thoughts for another lesson, I remembered the importance of not assuming or overlooking certain realities.

**To make a disciple, you must first be one.**

To convert others, it's most helpful and reasonable to be a convert yourself. Otherwise, you're no convert but a **convert**.

Let's illustrate the point quickly and easily: Jonah and Jesus instructed their audience to repent. Both taught the truth, did they not? So, which would you prefer to confront you? You would prefer Jesus because one tells you what to do while the other tells and shows. And it's not that it's because it's Jesus, either. You'd prefer John over Jonah as well. John could have been better (we all could), but his overall attitude was on point.

Let's get straight to the meaty question: **Are you qualified to make disciples? Would you want to be introduced to the gospel by someone like yourself?**

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- 1 John 3:4-10 Honestly evaluate yourself. I genuinely want to be the first to comfort a hypercritical Christian. It's my belief that we struggle with this in the body. We are, at times, overwhelmed with an unjustified fear of God. But while you want that to be true for the majority, that can't be true for everyone. Indeed, there are those in our midst who struggle with sincerity. Their conscience won't allow them to not attend a worship service, but only when they have to. They may attempt to share the gospel with the lost out of guilt or because they're romantically interested and need to check the box. They will put in the bare minimum. They can be hypercritical of the church, leaders, and preachers while being hypocritical themselves.
  - What kind of a disciple would I make? Matthew 23:13-15
  - What do you talk about? What was Jesus talking about? Matthew 5-7
  - Have you been converted to a "who" or a "what?" Matthew 15:1-20
  - See Jesus with fresh eyes. Matthew 16:13-16
  - Shadow fisherman. Matthew 4:18-22
  - Sacrifice everything. Matthew 13:44-46; 14:13-21