



Making **Fruitful** Disciples

Self-Assessment

2 Corinthians 13:5

Name: _____

Date: _____

Introduction

As believers, we are called to examine ourselves to determine where we are strong in our faith and where we need to grow. This Fruitful Disciple Self-Assessment is based on the eight books in Series One and Two of the First Principles Series.

The titles of each of the lessons in these books are the “first principles.” To turn that title into action, an outcome statement that starts with “since” and follows with “I will” has been added. Both parts are important. The “since” statement is a reminder of what God has done, and the “I will” statement reminds us of what we should do in response. Please take some time to pray for God’s will to be revealed to you as you complete this self-assessment.

How to use this tool:

This self-assessment tool is designed to provide you with a way to identify areas of strength and areas that need some work.

Please take your time when completing this self-assessment (30-60 minutes per section); go beyond the superficial, read the Scripture passages, and pray for God’s revelation.

We suggest that you complete one page a day. You will then complete the process in eight days.

If you want further material on any of the points you can refer to the First Principle book and lesson where that point is discussed.

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- 2.1 Enjoying your Relationship - first principles of marriage
- 2.2 Passing on Your Beliefs - first principles of family life
- 2.3 Envisioning Fruitful Lifework - first principles of ministry
- 2.4 Building for Future Generations - first principle of true success

1.1 Becoming a Disciple - first principles of the faith

First Principle & Outcome

Strength

Growth Area

1. The Gospel Message

Since the gospel message is so clear, I will be careful to faithfully preserve it and explain it to others.
Read Acts 10:34-48.

How confident am I in the gospel?

How comfortable am I in explaining it to others?

Do I drift in any way from believing that I am saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone?

2. Baptism - the next step

Since Jesus commanded me to be baptized, I will take this public step of obedience to affirm the gospel and declare that I am a disciple of Christ.
Read Matt 28:16-20.

Have I been baptized by immersion as a believer?

How am I progressing as a disciple?

3. The First Principles

Since Jesus commanded me to obey all that he commanded I will seek to build my discipleship on the First Principles of Apostolic doctrine.
Read Col 2:6-8.

The First Principles in this context are the titles and outcomes for each chapter in each book of the First Principles series.

How confident am I that the New Testament communicates First Principles to establish believers in the faith?

To what degree do I receive the First Principles with thanksgiving versus learning them out of obligation?



4. Renewing our Mind



Since God's Word is His means of transformation, I will seek to renew my mind by regularly studying the Bible with a view to personal transformation, by God's grace.
Read Rom 12:1-2.

Do I do this regularly and persistently?

How often do I find myself being corrected by Scripture so that I am able to avoid conformity to this world and so that I am able to discern what the will of God is?



5. Lifestyle of a Disciple



Since God has called me to live distinctly in a complex world, I will seek to live my life as a mature Christian so that I will be a witness to those around me.
Read Rom 14:1-23.

How often do I quarrel with other Christians on secondary matters, like food?

Can I recall times where I put aside some of my own Christian liberty for the sake of loving others?

Do I do all this because of the gospel (Rom. 14:9)?

Notes:

1.2 Belonging to a Family of Families - first principles of community life

First Principle & Outcome

Strength

Growth Area

1. The centrepiece of Christ’s plan - the Church

Since through the church the manifold wisdom of God is made known, I will participate in the mission of my church.

Read Eph 2:18-3:11.

How clear am I in my understanding of the mission of the church?

How active am I in the mission of the church?

2. The church as a family of families

Since the church is the household of God, I will conduct myself in His household in a way that is consistent with the household metaphor.

Read 1 Tim 3:14-16.

How is my conduct being formed in light of our obligation to live as a household?

To what degree do I connect with others in the church “family” and interact with them as a family of families would?

3. Living within a believing family

Since God has set out our responsibilities as family members, I will commit myself to my marriage and to the nurture of my children.

Read Eph 5:22-6:9.

How confident am I in the roles within marriage?

How am I progressing in my role (if applicable)?

How intentional am I in raising my children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (if applicable)?



4. Living within a family of families



Since God has set out our responsibilities as members of His family, the church, I will live out those responsibilities as a witness to the lost.
Read Titus 2:1-15.

How has the manner of my new life in Christ impacted my witness to lost people?

How do I connect my behavior to the grace of God, or to His redemption of the church? (see Titus 2:11-14)



5. Setting life priorities



Since God has called me to live wisely, then out of reverence to Jesus I will set my priorities to make the most of every opportunity.
Read Eph 5:15-21.

How much is my daily schedule impacted by my reverence to Christ?

To what degree am I walking in wisdom? For example: am I getting drunk, or addressing others with psalms and hymns, or giving thanks to God, or submitting to one another?

Notes:

1.3 Participating in the Mission of the Church - first principles of community purpose

First Principle & Outcome

Strength

Growth Area

1. Participating in the mission - worldwide

Since Christ, through Paul, demonstrated that the mission of Christ is to make disciples by establishing churches, I will focus my energies on the worldwide multiplication and strengthening of churches.
Read Acts 13:1-14:28.

How have I been contributing to the strengthening of my church?

To what degree do I see and support a worldwide vision for the multiplication of churches?

2. Participating in the mission - at home

Since I have a sphere of influence, I will seek to live with integrity so that I will adorn the gospel as a witness to a watching world.
Read Titus 2:1-3:14.

How is my sphere of influence increasing?

To what degree am I living with integrity around my neighbors, co-workers, and the watching world?

To what degree do those around me hear the gospel?

3. Cultivating our opportunities

Since Christ has called us to make disciples, I will cultivate authentic relationships in which non-believers ask questions about the faith they hear and see in me.
Read Col 4:2-6.

How am I doing at praying for and actively cultivating evangelistic relationships?

How confident am I in sharing the gospel?



4. Defending our faith



Since every generation has perceived reasons for rejecting the gospel, I will study diligently to give biblical answers and to seek the salvation of lost people.

Read 1 Peter 3:8-17.

How confident am I in defending the gospel?

How diligent am I in preparing for conversations with unbelievers?



5. Using our households as mission centers



Since households are well positioned in society, I will use my household as a mission center, as much as it depends on me.

Read Acts 10:1-33.

To what extent is my household a good example of the impact of the gospel?

How committed am I in using the resources of my household for the furtherance of God's call on me to make disciples?

Notes:

1.4 Cultivating Habits of the Heart - first principles of disciplined living

First Principle & Outcome

Strength

Growth Area

1. Christ dwelling in our hearts

Since Christ dwells in my heart, I will let Him transform every aspect of my life.
Read Eph 3:14-21.

What evidence is there that my heart is being transformed by Christ?

Are there areas in my heart that are resistant to the gospel?

How aware am I that the power of Christ dwells in me?

2. Cultivating habits in our individual lives

Since God has provided His Word for me to live by, I will set my mind and my heart on the things of Christ.
Read Col 3:1-17.

How confident am I in the philosophy of Christ?

Have I identified worldly principles that need to be replaced by Christ's principles?

3. Cultivating habits in our families

Since parents, fathers in particular, are responsible for training and instructing their children in the Lord, I will take on the responsibility or support the one who does.
Read Eph 6:1-4.

To what extent is my home a discipleship center, with ongoing and regular ways in which we are being established in the faith?

What family habits are helping keep my family centered on Christ? What habits are not?



4. Cultivating habits in our church family



Since God calls us to meet regularly to encourage and spur each other on, I will become deeply involved in my local church community.

Read Heb 10:23-25.

How much does my faith in Christ “swerve” from the hope I profess?

How is my church attendance at its regular gatherings?

How active am I in spurring others toward love and good deeds? Am I encouraging?



5. Cultivating habits in our lifework



Since our work is part of our witness for Jesus, I will exhibit a good, sound work ethic in all that I do.

Read 1 Thess 4:9-12.

How approachable am I with my co-workers?

How is my work ethic? Am I a good employee?

What motive(s) guides my work ethic?

Notes:

2.1 Enjoying Your Relationship - first principles of marriage

First Principle & Outcome

Strength

Growth Area

1. Cultural Confusion - marriage redefined

Since households are being disrupted by dangerous cultural trends, I will be diligent to seek God's wisdom in establishing my home.

Read Titus 1:10-16.

What efforts have I made to ensure my family is seeking God's wisdom and not getting caught up in what the culture teaches that is in opposition to Christ?

How confident am I that God's view of marriage, gender and family is the right view?

2. God's basic design for marriage

Since God has established guidelines for husbands and wives, I will live in accordance with the guidelines that apply to me.

Read Eph 5:22-33.

How am I establishing my role in my marriage?

How am I respecting the role of my partner?

3. Spirit of marriage

Since God's Spirit is in me, I will let Him guide my attitudes and actions toward my spouse.

Read 1 Peter 3:1-7.

How is my inner attitude towards my spouse?

Do I regard my spouse in an honouring way as an equal heir?

4. Marriage and community life

Since God has called us to live in Christian community, I will seek relationships with other Christians to build a strong marriage.
Read Titus 2:3-5.

How is my marriage encouraging other marriages in the church?

Am I active in supporting and teaching younger couples?

How connected am I with multiple generations within the church?

5. Building intergenerational commitment

Since strong marriages build strong families and churches, I commit to a healthy long-term marriage.
Read 1 Tim 5:1-16.

How concerned am I for my family and my relatives? Am I caring for them or could I be caring for them more?

What am I doing to ensure the longevity of my marriage?

How aware am I about the relationship between long term marriage and the health of the church?

Notes:

2.2 Passing on Your Beliefs - first principles of family life

First Principle & Outcome

Strength

Growth Area

1. Cultural breakdown of family life

Since our culture is contrary to the Christian principles of the family, I will teach my children and live my life according to Scripture.

Read 2 Tim 3:1-17.

Am I doing that? To what degree have I made progress in the teaching of Christian principles to my children?

How confident am I that the Bible is God's very word?

What example am I in living out Biblical principles for my children?

2. God's basic design for family life

Since God has charged parents with the responsibility to nurture the faith of their children, I will seek to raise my children in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Read Eph 6:1-4.

What is my heart's response to the responsibility to God's design?

How have I ensured that my children are being raised up in the instruction in the Lord?

3. Shaping a young life

Since parents are empowered to shape the lives of our children, I will be careful not to embitter my children.

Read Col 3:20-21.

How do I do at controlling my anger and ensuring I do not embitter my kids?

To what extent do I both tenderly encourage and authoritatively instruct my children?

4. The family in community life

Since the family is a subsection of the greater church family, I will lead my family to actively participate in my local church.

Read Titus 2:1-9.

What are the ways my family participates in the church family?

How am I connecting with multiple generations?

5. Managing our household

Since passing on the faith to our children is critical for the wellbeing of the church both parents need to implement a plan for discipling their children under the leadership of the father.

Read 1 Tim 3:4-5.

How committed am I to correcting my children?

How have I thought through and implemented a philosophy for discipline?

How do my children respond to my discipline?

Notes:

2.3 Envisioning Fruitful Lifework - first principles of ministry

First Principle & Outcome

Strength

Growth Area

1. Created for good works

Since I am created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for me to do, I will treat all of my work as sacred.

Read Eph 2:8-10.

Do I feel that my work is a calling from God?

In what ways is my work bringing glory to God?

2. Masters, slaves and contemporary work

Since my work is by divine appointment, I will serve everyone, as if I am serving the Lord.

Read Eph 6:5-9.

What kind of attitude do I have to my employer?

Can I see God working in my life through my employer?

How well do I understand a Biblical view of "life-work"?

3. A disciplined work ethic

Since I am doing the Lord's work, I will work diligently and be industrious in my calling.

Read 2 Thess 3:6-15.

To what extent am I giving my employer an honest day's work?

Do I make every effort to work hard even when others around me do not?

Do I take the initiative in my lifework?

4. Becoming cheerful givers

Since I am a steward of what God has entrusted to me, I will give generously with a heart of gratitude and joy.

Read 1 Cor 9:6-9.

How has the gospel affected the way I financially support my church?

How joyful am I in giving financially to the church?

Does my giving to the church reflect my gratitude to God for what He's given me?

5. A single-minded focus on our lifework

Since all my work is for Jesus, I will focus my life so as to win the prize.

Read 1 Cor 9:24-27.

Do I regularly keep prioritized and focused on what spiritual outcomes I can contribute to?

How aware am I that there is spiritual significance to everything that I do?

Would others say my life is characterized by self-control and discipline?

Notes:

2.4 Building for Future Generations - first principles of true success

First Principle & Outcome

Strength

Growth Area

1. Investments, retirement & personal success

Since all I have comes from God, I will, in humility, be rich in good deeds and generous with what I have been given.

Read 1 Tim 6:17-19.

In what ways is my life, including my finances, characterized by a hope in God?

How generous am I?

Have I considered the needs of the church in my estate planning?

2. Investing in the local church

Since God has gifted me to serve Him, I will wholeheartedly serve Him and His people in the local church.

Read Rom 12:3-16.

Am I mentoring and influencing others to use the gifts given to them?

How do I honour people above myself and make efforts to serve others in the church?

3. Investing in the progress of the gospel

Since Christ continues to build His church globally, I will invest my resources and giftedness to this end.

Read Phil 1:27-2:30.

How do I pursue a unity of Christ within my church?

To what extent would I say my life is totally invested to the progress of the gospel?

How interested am I in the global increase in the church?



4. Investing for eternity



Because all my activities will be judged by God in light of eternity, I will seek to pass on my faith to those who can continue the mission of Christ until He returns.

Read 1 Cor 3:10-15.

What kind of legacy am I leaving in the church?

To what extent am I trying to ensure that I get recognition verses ensuring Jesus gets the glory?



5. Laying hold of Christ



Since our identity is in Christ and He is my greatest treasure, I will press on to know Christ and live out His calling on my life.

Read Phil 3:1-21.

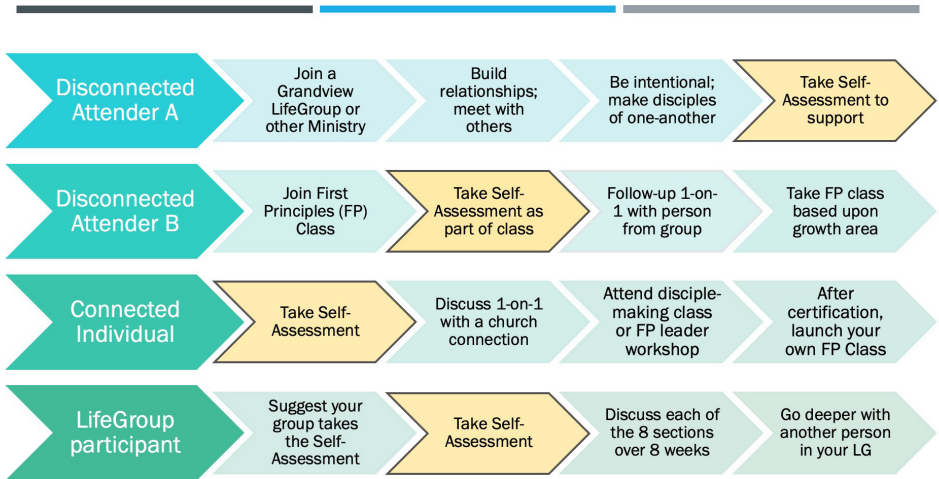
Do I know the difference between knowing about Christ and knowing Christ?

Is my passion for Christ growing?

Have I left what is behind and fully committed to knowing Christ without any mixed motives?

Notes:

POSSIBLE PATHWAYS



The Fruitful Disciple Self-Assessment can be used in a variety of ways, but ideally used in relationships. Thus, someone who is disconnected at Grandview should consider joining a LifeGroup, First Principles class or other ministry to build relationships. You can expect the self-assessment to be a tool used to support and focus your growth in the Biblical first principles of our faith.

Anyone can take the self-assessment right away. In the example of the Connected Individual, they complete it and then discuss with another connection, perhaps their spouse. If you already have an established mentor or close friendship, then the self-assessment can be used to help focus and support discussion. Also, a LifeGroup can use the self-assessment as group and discuss their results and the related Scripture passages together. The point is not to rigidly follow a path but rather the intentional development of fruitful disciples at Grandview.