

## *Discipleship for Everyday Life* *"Me? Make Disciples?"*

March 6, 2011

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### **I. Biblical Philosophy of Life in Ministry:**

To know, love, and glorify God and to be used of Him to raise up qualified laborers, in significant numbers, as fast as possible to help fulfill the great commission.

#### **1. To *know* God**

And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

***John 17:3***

#### **2. To *love* God**

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

***Mark 12:30***

#### **3. To *glorify* God**

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

***1 Corinthians 10:31***

#### **4. To be *used* of God**

Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

***2 Timothy 2:20-21***

#### **5. To raise up qualified *laborers***

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

***Matthew 9:36-38***

#### **6. In significant *numbers***

The least one shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation; I am the LORD; in its time I will hasten it.

***Isaiah 60:22***

#### **7. As *fast* as possible**

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

***Ephesians 5:15-16***

## **8. To help fulfill the Great *Commission***

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

***Matthew 28:18-20***

## **II. What is a disciple: μαθητής    Learner, follower, imitator of ones teaching... (1 Corinthians 11:1)**

### **1. Loves God**

Be very careful, therefore, to love the LORD your God.

***Joshua 23:11***

### **2. Follows God**

And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

***Matthew 4:19***

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

***Luke 9:23***

### **3. Learns from God**

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

***Matthew 11:29***

### **4. Proclaims Christ**

For we cannot help but speaking of what we have seen and heard.

***Acts 4:20***

## **III. What is discipleship:**

*Broad Definition:* Teaching another person to become a **follower** of Christ.

*"Walking with Jesus and then turning around and teaching others how you did it."*

*Narrow Definition:* Discipleship is a process whereby a Christian with a life worth emulating commits him/herself to another believer for the purpose of helping them **grow** to spiritual maturity so that they in turn can disciple others.

*Examples of life on life discipleship:*

a. **2 Timothy 2:2**... And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses...

c. **Titus 2:1-6**...Read

b. **Proverbs 27:17**... As Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

Iron cannot sharpen iron from a distance - iron must touch iron! In the same way, people can sharpen one another if they are close proximity – close enough to "rub."

#### **IV. What does it take to be a disciple-maker?**

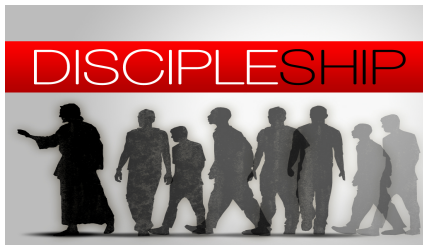
- 1. You need to be a disciple of Christ yourself.**
- 2. You need to be walking obediently with Christ.**
- 3. You need to be **engaged** in the basics of the Christian life.**
  - a. Daily quiet / devotional time
  - b. **Growing prayer life**
  - c. Memorizing Scripture
  - d. **Pursuing holiness**
  - e. Evangelism
  - f. You cannot **give away** what you don't have.
  - g. You will reproduce yourself with all of your strengths and all of your weaknesses.
- 4. You need to be maintaining a life worth **emulating**.**
  - a. More is caught than taught.
- 5. You need a **heart** for God's people.**
  - a. A young Christian is much like an infant... They are **needy** and tend to make **messes**.
  - b. They don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.
- 6. You need to be **willing**!**
  - a. You don't need to know it all, you just need something to offer.

Here is where we must begin just like Jesus. It will be slow, tedious, painful, and probably unnoticed by people at first, but the end result will be glorious, even if we don't live to see it. We must decide where we want our ministry to count – in the momentary applause of popular recognition or in the reproduction of our lives in a few chosen people who will carry on our work after we have gone. Really it is a question of which generation we are living for.

**- Robert Coleman**

Next week we will talk about developing a vision for discipleship!

***Week 1 Challenge: Memorize Matthew 28:18-20***



## Discipleship for Everyday Life

### *"Vision: Why Make Disciples"*

March 13, 2011

Me? Make Disciples? Continued...

### **III. What is discipleship:**

Broad Definition	Narrow Definition
Teaching another person to become a <b>follower</b> of Christ.  <i>"Walking with Jesus and then turning around and teaching others how you did it."</i>	Discipleship is a process whereby a Christian with a life worth emulating commits him/herself to another believer for the purpose of helping them <b>grow</b> to spiritual maturity so that they in turn can disciple others.

*Examples of life on life discipleship:*

- a. 2 Timothy 2:2 → And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses...
- c. **Titus 2:1-6** → But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine...
- b. **Proverbs 27:17** → Iron cannot sharpen iron from a distance - iron must touch iron! In the same way, people can sharpen one another if they are close proximity – close enough to "rub."

### **IV. What does it take to be a disciple-maker?**

#### **1. You need to be a disciple of Christ yourself.**

- a. Only a **disciple** can make a disciple. *A.W. Tozer*

#### **2. You need to be walking obediently with Christ.**

- a. Specifically obedient to the Great Commission.

#### **3. You need to be **engaged** in the basics of the Christian life.**

- a. Daily quiet / devotional time
- b. Growing prayer life
- c. Memorizing Scripture
- d. **Pursuing holiness**
- e. Evangelism
- f. You cannot **give away** what you don't have.
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**Robert Coleman**

## Lesson 2 "Vision: Why Make Disciples"

### **I. Why commit yourself to this means of ministry:**

#### **1. Because of the **brevity** of life.**

- a. Life is a vapor. James 4:14

#### **2. Because of a sense of **stewardship**.**

#### **3. A desire for my life to **count**.**

Two things last forever:

- 1. Souls of men
- 2. The Word of God. Luke 21:33

#### **4. God **commands** that we do so. Matthew 28:18-20**

- a. Winning others to Christ - Discipleship begins with and ends with evangelism.
- b. Making disciples - Teaching them to obey all that God has commanded us.

#### **5. Relatively **few** Christians are doing it.**

- a. We love comfort. (American Dream)
- b. We fear rejection.
- c. We make excuses. (That is for full-time ministers, I don't have time right now, I don't know enough etc...)
- d. We are absorbed with ourselves. (John 4:35)
- e. We don't see the need.

*I've just seen the world and I'll set it to rhyme;  
The way God sees it all of the time.  
It's starving for food - number in millions,  
While those needing life must be counted by billions.  
There is a green pasture nearby, only a stones throw away;  
But without a shepherd, in hunger, they'll stay.  
Where are the shepherds? Where have they gone?  
They're out pulling weeds in their own front lawn.  
The shepherds have problems, they'll tell you themselves;  
The manure from sheep, O how it smells.  
The problems they debate are important, you see,  
What color should the drapes in the shepherd's club be?  
Nike's or Reebok's which should a shepherd wear?  
Ask the dying and see if they care.  
But I've seen the world and the way it can be,  
And these things are no longer important to me.  
Manure, I must agree, certainly does smell,  
But what does it matter when sheep go to hell?  
Once again come the tears, once again I must weep;  
For no one is listening as the Lord calls, "Feed my sheep."*

**Bob McNabb**

**6. For God's **glory**.**

- a. Missions exists because worship doesn't...
- b. God is worthy of the worship of every living human on the face of the planet.
- c. Psalm 150:6...Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

**7. For your **joy**.**

- a. Joy of obedience
- b. Joy of a life not wasted.
- c. Joy of seeing blasphemers turned worshippers.
- d. Joy of sharing in Christ's sufferings. Philippians 3:10
- e. I seek not a long life, but a full one, like You, Lord Jesus."

**8. Because of the **need**...The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.**

- a. 6.9 billion people in the word.
- b. Conservative statistics show that only 550,000,000 are evangelicals or 7.9% of the world's population.
- c. Estimated that someone dies without Christ every 1.7 seconds.
- d. 107 People/minute    6458/hour    154,992/daily    57 million/annually    4 billion in your 70 year lifespan

**9. It was Jesus' **Method****

- a. Mark 3:13-14

**10. Because it **works**.**

- a. If you know Christ, you are a product of spiritual multiplication and discipleship.

**II. Developing a vision for disciple making:**

Question: What is a vision?

The ability to **imagine** a future event before its fruition and to live for it.

Robert Woodruff President of Coca Cola Bottling Company 1923-1955 boldly declared during World War II, "We will see that every person in uniform gets a bottle of Coca Cola for five cents wherever he is and whatever it costs." After the war, he said that he wanted everyone in the world to have tasted Coca Cola in his lifetime.

**- Robert Woodruff, Coca Cola President 1923 - 1955**

- What if he had said, "*I want everyone in the world to hear the gospel in my lifetime, wherever he is and whatever it costs.*" [ *What could that look like?* ]

The widow of visionary Walt Disney was asked to speak at Disney World's Grand Opening. As she was introduced, the Master of Ceremonies turned to her and said effusively, "I just wish Walt could have seen this!" Mrs. Disney stood, moved to the microphone and answered emphatically, "He did." And she sat down.

**- Wife of Walt Disney**

Question: Why is it so important to have a vision for your life?

- a. A vision gives you **direction** (focuses your life)
- b. A vision gives you **motivation**.
- c. A vision gives you something to **trust** God for.
- d.

Question: How do you envision the world being reached for Christ? Does it include YOU?

How do you envision believers being rooted and established in the faith? Does it include YOU?

→ Read my vision... Explain the context...

Comparison / Contrast a life with a vision and a life without a vision... (Eric Robinson – CO)

<b>Living without a vision...</b>	<b>Living with a clearly defined vision...</b>
Cannot make good <b>decisions</b> .	Makes decisions with purpose.
Wastes a lot of time and energy without accomplishing very much.	Very <b>efficient</b> with their time; accomplishing much for the advancement of the Kingdom.
Typically <b>over-commits</b> .	Does more by doing less.
Allow others <b>agenda</b> to rule.	More interested in pleasing God than pleasing people
Is very busy, but cannot answer the question: <b>Why</b> ?	Very intentional / purposeful when it comes to what they do and why they do it.
Always plays it <b>safe</b> .	Willing to take God-honoring risks.

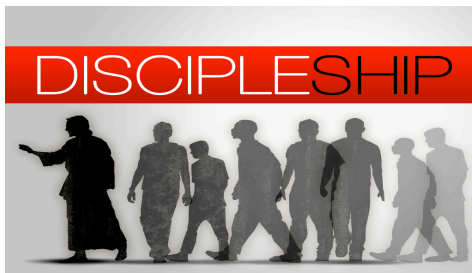
Illustration: Let a balloon go...

The only thing worse than being blind, is being able to see but having no vision.

***Hellen Keller***

I encourage you to take passages like Matthew 9:36-38; 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2 and create a vision statement for your life! It doesn't have to be a novel... a few sentences or a short paragraph that capsulizes your desire for the laborers to be raised up.

Next week, I would love to ask 2-3 of you to read yours if you would be willing!



## *Discipleship for Everyday Life* *"Barriers to Disciple-Making"*

March 20, 2011

### **Difference Between Call to be a Disciple of Jesus and Call to Discipleship** **Disciple**

"**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 9:57-62)

### **Discipleship**

"**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." (Matthew 4:18-19)

"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." (II Timothy 2:2)

**\*Definition:** One life, and One life, walking with God together

### **Share my Testimony:**

Came to Christ just before college

Lots of feeding early on and was growing

Took a long time to see my need and the need for disciple-makers

### **I. Barriers to Disciple-Making:**

**1. You have to be the finished product to disciples others.**

"**9**For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God." (I Corinthians 15:9)

"**8**To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." (Ephesians 3:8)



**15**The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.” (I Timothy 1:15)

**12**Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.” (I Timothy 4:12)

**Discussion:** Why do people feel this way?

## **2. You have to be a vocational minister to disciple others.**

All you need is a life worth imitating  
"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (I Corinthians 11:1)

**Discussion:** Tell me why people feel this way?

\*Everything I do is built around non-vocational ministers of the Gospel.

## **3. You must see immediate, measurable results.**

Peter

Discipleship is a long and painful process but the fruit of it is incredibly sweet.

## **4. I don't want to be in a position of "authority".**

Authority is the wrong word. Servant is a better term

John 13

"But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. **26** It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,**27**and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, **28**even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."  
(Matthew 20:25-28)

**15**No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:15)

**Discussion:** Are there any other passages that come to mind when you think about this?

## **5. Discipling relationships turn your friends into projects.**

\*Discipleship isn't sitting across a table and talking 90% of the time. That's not even teaching. Discipleship is one life and one life walking with God together.

**15**No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:15)

**Discussion:** How do you fall into the temptation to reduce a discipling friendship into a project?

**Discussion:** How can you avoid this pitfall?

**6. I don't see the need for discipleship.**

“**2** And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Luke 10:2)

**Discussion:** What commonly distracts you from seeing the need for discipleship?

**7. I don't know enough to disciple someone.**

“**8** Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. **9** What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.” (Philippians 4:8-9)

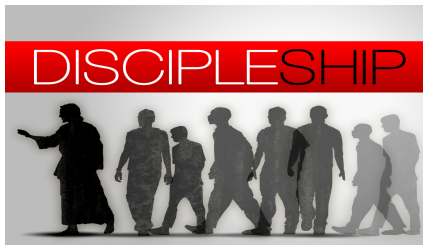
No one ever asked you to know everything or be perfectly equipped.

**Discussion:** What do you need to know in order to disciple someone?

**What Next? Application?**

- 1) Are you fishing?
- 2) Is there someone “bleeping” on your radar?
- 3) What kind of person would you look to disciple?

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H



*Discipleship for Everyday Life*  
*"Qualifications for Selection: Who Fits The Bill"*

March 27, 2011

Finish Lesson #2

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Is very busy, but cannot answer the question: <b>Why</b> ?	Very intentional / purposeful when it comes to what they do and why they do it.
Always plays it <b>safe</b> .	Willing to take God-honoring risks.

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Next week, I would love to ask 2-3 of you to read yours if you would be willing!

## **I. Qualifications for a Potential Disciple:**

In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, *and all night he continued in prayer to God*. And when day came, he called his disciples and *chose from them twelve*, whom he named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

***Luke 6:12-16***

*Couple of things I want you to notice:*

1. Jesus prayed all **night** before he chose his disciples.
2. Jesus called his disciples and **chose** from them twelve.

*Important Principle:*

Jesus didn't hastily rush out and grab the first few men who showed any interest in Him. To Him it was a momentous decision with far-reaching consequences. Of all those that followed him he chose 12 specifically that he would invite into a more **intimate** relationship with him.

*What does this mean to us:*

We too should enter into the discipleship selection process **soberly** – understanding our commitment as a disciple maker and the commitment you are asking a potential disciple to make as he /she follows your leadership.

*What kind of men did Jesus choose to be his disciples?*

- **Fishermen (Hard Working)**
- **Tax Collectors**
- **Rough around the edges, Unsophisticated**
- **Unschooling, Ordinary Men (Acts 4:13)**
- **They didn't have it all together**

Suppose Jesus had chosen only those who were highly cultured, of great intellect and wealth, who never had any nagging doubts or fears, men who never made mistakes or said things they later regretted, those who were strangers to the infirmities, desires, problems, and sins of the rest of us. Where would that put us? We couldn't identify with people like that. We would be tempted to throw up our hands in despair, turn around, and continue in our mediocre ways.

Why do you think Jesus chose men that that were very human?

*What does this mean to us:*

1. It means that we can **identify** with the weaknesses and imperfections of Jesus' disciples.
2. It means that we are not looking for **perfection** in a person before we will disciple them!
3. We are not looking for disciples that are **just like us**. (Interests, temperament, personality...)

Qualifications for discipleship:

- Again, we are not looking for perfect people to disciple...
- Perfect people don't need to be disciplined.
- The qualities that we are going to look at here don't have to be in perfect order in a person's life.
- They don't have to have had a 365-day span where they have not missed a day in the Word.
- But they have to be hungry and willing to grow in these areas!

1. A **believer** – If not, you are engaged in evangelism...

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

***John 5:24***

2. A Learner

- a. **Humble** – Hard to teach a know it all
- b. **Teachable** – Eager to follow
- c. **Hungry** – Desire to know Christ and pursue a holy life

3. **Loves** God

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

***Mark 12:30***

4. **Submissive** to Christ's authority

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

***Luke 9:23***

5. Loves / Abides in the Word

1. **Take** it in – Hear, Read, Study, Memorize

Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

***James 1:21***

2. **Think** it over – Meditate

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

***Joshua 1:8***

3. **Live** it out – Apply

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

***James 1:22***

4. **Pass** it on – Proclaim

If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

***Jeremiah 20:9***

6. Loves God's people

- a. **Servants** heart

Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

***Matthew 20:28***

b. **Unifying** spirit

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

***Romans 12:4-5***

7. Bearing **fruit**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

***Galatians 5:22-23***

8. Faithful | Available | Initiates | Teachable | Hungry



## *Discipleship for Everyday Life* *"The Need for Holiness"*

April 3, 2011

### **I. THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF DISCIPLESHIP:**

*A. Above all else, discipleship can be distilled down to **obedience** to Christ's commands.*

Christian activities such as reading books that help shape theology and doctrine, attending Bible studies, participating in various leadership opportunities, being a part of a small group, serving on a missions trips and the like are all good and helpful, but if there is not a real change in a persons life marked by a growing obedience to Christ, then a person cannot be called a **disciple**.

Listen to what Jesus says about our obedience in John 14:

If you love me, you will **keep** my commandments.

**John 14:15**

Whoever has my commandments and **keeps** them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

**John 14:21**

Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will **keep** my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not **keep** my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

**John 14:23-24**

**Question:** Why is obedience such an important part of love? Our love for Christ motivates our desire to please him. If we are truly regenerate, possessing the Holy Spirit, our greatest desire will be to do his will!

[The life] that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

**1 John 1:3-7**

**Question:** How does John say that we know we are in Christ? By our obedience. What about the person that says "I know Him," and yet does not obey His commands? That person is, in biblical terms, a liar.

*B. The goal of the Christian life is **glorifying** God.*

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

**Philippians 1:9–11**

**Question:** What do you see in this passage that talks about obedience? Discernment...Pure and blameless...

## **II. THE IMPORTANCE OF ENCOURAGING HOLINESS IN A DISCIPLE:**

A. *Repentance* is required for a person to become a Christian and maintain a life pleasing to God.

Though it is part, it is not enough for a person to simply acknowledge Jesus as Lord. A Christian repents of their sin, both initially and ongoing, and seeks to, by God's grace, walk in a way that is pleasing to the Lord. Does total change happen immediately? No. Discipleship is a process...

**Definition of Discipleship:** Discipleship is a process whereby a Christian with a life worth emulating commits him/herself to another believer for the purpose of helping them grow to spiritual maturity so that they in turn can disciple others.

Though total change doesn't happen immediately, there should be some immediate change in a person, visible fruit, that evidence a new desire to please and obey Christ. What are some of these immediate changes that take place at conversion?

B. Immediate changes in the life of a regenerate believer.

a. *Spiritual* status changes

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

**John 5:24**

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light  
**Ephesians 5:8**

...and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

**Romans 6:18**

b. Indwelling Holy Spirit

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

**1 Corinthians 3:16**

For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

**Romans 8:13–14**

c. Sins are immediately forgiven

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

**Romans 8:1**



If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**1 John 1:9**

*C. Growing changes in the life of a regenerate believer.*

*a. **Worldview** change*

When a person comes to Christ, their worldview begins to change. The realization of their justified status before God leaves them in awe. And as this realization becomes increasingly rooted and grounded in the trust of God's Word, a new believer begins to interpret the world they live in through a distinctly Christian (Godly) lens. This does not mean that a young disciple becomes perfect, but there is a new desire to grow. The temptation that we need to resist is the temptation to take on the role of the Holy Spirit to "help them grow faster." Be careful that your leadership is not just teaching them what "hoops" they must jump through to please you. This will only lead to a performance-based relationship that is shallow, brittle, and more destructive than it is helpful. They need you to be truthful, but they also need to know that you love them. We see this theme in **Romans 5:8**, "But God shows His *love* for us in that while we were *still sinners* Christ died for us." Bad habits and cravings don't disappear overnight in those we are discipling. Don't expect that – or you will surely be discouraged. But take heart, what you can expect is to see the Spirit's working over a period of time as you seek to encourage and nurture a young believer in the truth and promises of God's Word.

*b. **Character** change*

Character can be defined as moral strength and constitution and is developed by hardships, struggles and even sin that is dealt with in a Godly way. Through these hardships and struggles, we see God's faithfulness and learn to trust Him more and more.

More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

**Romans 5:3–4**

**III. THE IMPORTANCE OF HOLINESS IN THE LIFE OF THE DISCIPLE:**

A. A disciple learns what it looks like to be holy by **seeing** a holy life.

Jesus not only *told* His disciples to how to be holy, He *showed* them how as well.

For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have **done** to you.

**John 13:15**

Here are a few more passages for consideration:

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

**Philippians 3:17**

Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

**2 Timothy 1:13**

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

**1 Corinthians 11:1**

So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

**1 Thessalonians 2:8**

*B. Opportunities to maintain personal holiness.*

*a. Regular time in the **Word***

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

**Colossians 3:16**

*b. Regular time in **prayer**.*

Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

**Ephesians 6:18**

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

**Colossians 4:2**

*c. Regular attendance at **church** and ACE classes*

Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

**1 Timothy 4:13**

*d. Regular **accountability** with another Christian (Mentorship)*

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.

**2 Timothy 2:2**



## *Discipleship for Everyday Life*

### *"Four Aspects of Making Disciples"*

April 10, 2011

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#### **I. MOTIVATION**

One of the greatest single needs in Christendom today for the fulfilling of the Great Commission is that people be motivated. I once had a man say to me, "Either you are a part of the solution or you are a part of the problem."

Question: What is motivation? The reasons, general desire or willingness a person has for acting or behaving in a particular way...

#### **What Motivates People:**

##### **A. Convictions**

But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

***Acts 20:24***

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.

***Acts 5:29***

##### **B. Needs**

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

***Matthew 9:36-38***

##### **C. Goals**

###### **a. Long-term goals**

That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

***Philippians 3:10-11***

###### **b. Intermediate goals**

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

***Colossians 1:28***

#### **What is Necessary to Motivate Others:**

##### **A. A motivating mindset**

##### **B. The right motives**

C. The right **attitudes**

- a. Recognizing that every person is of infinite worth / value.
  - Image Bearer
- b. Believing in the limitless **potential** of every individual.
  - Always love them and never give up on them!

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.  
***Philippians 4:13***

D. Personal involvement

- a. Spend **time** with them
  - Discover their convictions, needs, goals...
  - Listen, probe, retreat, pray...
- b. Remove **emotional** roadblocks
- c. Help them set **worthy** goals
- d. Help them keep **moving** forward
  - Set clear standards...
  - Let them know you care – 1 Corinthians 13:8...
  - Express and demonstrate confidence...
  - Let them learn by both teaching and mistakes...
  - Create needs in them...
  - Equip them to do the job...
  - Be fair, impartial, and consistent...
  - Check up on them without being overbearing or micromanaging...
  - Encourage and express appreciation – Be enthusiastic about them!
  - Be a consistent example...

**Hindrances to Motivation:**

A. A lack of **concern**.

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.  
***Philippians 2:3-4***

B. A lack of personal **contact**.

And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are."  
***Acts 15:36***

C. A lack of **listening**.

If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.  
***Proverbs 18:13***

D. A lack of thinking and **planning**.

Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.  
***Proverbs 11:14***

E. A lack of **prayer**.

Brothers, pray for us.  
**1 Thessalonians 5:25**

Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you,  
**2 Thessalonians 3:1**

### **Encouragement as You Seek to Motivate Others:**

- A. Our **marching** orders are clearly outlined in Scripture.
- B. I'm not **working** alone. God's Word is building conviction in their life.
- C. Jesus meets every **Need**!

## **II. TEACHING**

Question: What is teaching? Teaching is imparting knowledge.  
What do we teach? What knowledge is essential to impart.

- A. Their personal **walk** with Christ
  - a. Quiet Time
  - b. The necessity and **sufficiency** of the Word
  - c. **Prayer** – (ACTS)
    - **Adoration**

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

**1 Chronicles 29:11–13**

- Confession

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

**Proverbs 28:13**

- **Thanksgiving**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16–18**

- **Supplication**
  - **Intercession**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16–18**

Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you.

**1 Samuel 12:23a**

- *Petition*

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

**1 John 5:14–15**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let *your* requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Philippians 4:6–7**

B. Their *Ministry*.

a. *Evangelism*

1. Testimony consisting of:

- My life *before* I came to know Christ.
- *How* I came to know Christ – Conversion experience.
- My life *since* I came to know Christ.

2. *Tools* – Bridge diagram, four Spiritual laws, tracts

3. *Memorized* verses (God's character, sin and separation, The person of Christ, redemption and reconciliation)

b. *Fellowship*

- Real fellowship is around the person of Jesus.

That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

**1 John 1:3**

c. *Follow Up* – Spiritual Pediatrics.

d. How to lead a *Bible* study or discussion group.

e. Essential Bible *doctrine*:

- *Character of God* – Holy, just, sovereign, love, goodness, omnipotence.
- *Character of man* – wickedly sinful, vile, corrupt, fallen and in need of God's saving grace.
- *Salvation* – grace alone, faith alone, Christ alone.
- *The nature of the Word of God* – Inspired, infallible and inerrant.
- *Jesus* – Fully God and Fully man, accomplishment of redemption, the object of our faith.

f. Understands principles of spiritual *multiplication*.

- *Matthew 28:18-20*

- *2 Timothy 2:2*



*Discipleship for Everyday Life*  
*"Four Aspects of Making Disciples"*

April 17, 2011

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**II. TEACHING**

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a. Quiet Time

b. The necessity and **sufficiency** of the Word

c. **Prayer** – (ACTS)

- **Adoration**

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

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***Philippians 4:6–7***

B. Their **Ministry**.

a. **Evangelism**

1. Clearly articulate the essentials of the **Gospel**.
2. Testimony consisting of:
  - My life **before** I came to know Christ.
  - **How** I came to know Christ – Conversion experience.
  - My life **since** I came to know Christ.
3. **Tools** – Bridge diagram, four Spiritual laws, tracts
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That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

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c. **Follow Up** – Spiritual Pediatrics.

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- *Salvation* – grace alone, faith alone, Christ alone.
- *The nature of the Word of God* – Inspired, infallible and inerrant.
- *Jesus* – Fully God and Fully man, accomplishment of redemption, the object of our faith.

f. Understands principles of spiritual **multiplication**.

- *Matthew 28:18-20*

- *2 Timothy 2:2*





## *Discipleship for Everyday Life*

### *"Four Aspects of Making Disciples"*

April 24, 2011

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### **III. TRAINING:**

Question: What is training? If teaching is imparting knowledge, then training is imparting skills.

Three vital, ongoing, questions we must be able to answer as we train our disciples:

1. Where are they **now**?
  2. Where am I **taking** them?
  3. What is their **next** step?
- A. How do we train those we are discipling?
- a. By **example**. *1 Corinthians 11:1*
  - b. Spend time in the Word **with** them. Tell them what you are learning...
  - c. Teach them a useful **method(s)** for spending time in the Word. SPECK | OIA | GOD/SELF/GROW
  - d. Pray **with** them and for them. *Luke 11:1 "Lord, teach us to pray."*
  - e. Take them **with** you when you go to share your faith.
  - f. **Expose** them to others with Godly character.
  - g. **Give** them responsibility.
  - h. **Give** them feedback. (The breakfast of champions!)
- B. Pitfalls to avoid when training disciples:
- a. Spiritual **Pride**. - Feeling the need to communicate a life that is flawlessly all together.
  - b. **Exclusivism**. - Failure or refusal to expose those you are discipling to others.
  - c. **Using** a man or woman instead of training them.
  - d. Inundating them with **activities**.
  - e. Pushing methods instead of **principles**.
  - f. Locked into a **syllabus** and ignoring natural God given abilities a spiritual gifts.
  - g. Dealing more with the head than the **heart**.

### **IV. Building: The 3 C's**

- A. **Conviction** – Being convinced of the need or importance of something to the point that it affects their lifestyle.

*How to build conviction:*

- a. Teach
  - 1. Teach them by getting in the **Word** and studying the area of question with them.
  - 2. Teach them by making them **think**. Ask them “why” questions.
  - 3. Tell them **why** you have a conviction about it.
- b. Model
  - 1. Spend time with them (rub) so they can see you **live out** your conviction.
  - 2. “More is **caught** than taught”
- c. **Pray**
  - 1. Pray with them.
  - 2. Pry for them.

B. **Competence** – Having adequate ability; knowing what to do and how to do it; understanding general principles.

*How to build competence: Training Language*

- a. Do it in **front** of them.  
Principle: A disciple needs to see it lived out before them.  
Key: Our example
- b. Teach them **why**.  
Principle: A person must be convinced of the need or the importance of something in their own life.  
Key: Conviction
- c. Show them **how**.  
Principle: A person needs skills in order to practically apply convictions to the life.  
Key: Skills
- d. Do it **with** them.  
Principle: A person must have on-site supervision and feedback for maximum understanding.  
Key: Supervised involvement
- e. Keep them **going**.  
Principle: A person must experience victory over a period of time in application of it in their life.  
Key: Accountability
- f. Help them **reproduce**.  
Principle: Believers are to spiritually multiply their lives.  
Key: Reproduction

C. **Consistency** – Experiencing victory over a period of time in application of what has been taught.

*How to build consistency:*

- a. Ensure that there is **adequate** conviction and competence.
- b. Supply **structure** and encourage self-discipline.
- c. Provide **accountability**.
  - 1. **Presence**
  - 2. Praise
  - 3. **Proper** feedback
- d. Pray for them and with them.
- e. **Encourage** them often.



*Discipleship for Everyday Life*  
*"Discipleship in the Context of the Local Church"*

May 1, 2011

Why make disciples in the context of the local church?

**1. Because the church is called to be *pure*.**

- a. Jesus came to purify a people for himself – Titus 2:14.
- b. We should desire to encourage and maintain purity in the local church.
- c. Discipleship within the local church helps to make the church pure.

**2. Because of your *weaknesses* and lack of developed gifts.**

- a. You will multiply your strengths.
- b. You will also *multiply* your weaknesses.
- c. Exposure to others who are stronger in areas of your weaknesses will help your disciples grow *"proportionately."*

**3. Because the local church provides a greater measure of *accountability*.**

- a. The church exists in part for the sake of accountability – membership.
- b. A group of people can "know" a person better than you alone – multiple points of connection.

**4. Because you have a limited amount of *time* and energy.**

- a. The ministry of the local church expands your discipleship ministry.
  - Sunday Morning Sermons
  - Adult Christian Education Classes
  - *Small Groups*
  - Biblical Counseling
  - *Exposure to Missions*
  - Teaches them how to interact with other believers (fellowship)
  - *Gives them an outlet for serving*
  - *Gives them a place to honor God by tithing*

**5. Because the Church (God's people) are meant to grow *together*.**

- a. Proverbs 27:17
- b. Hebrews 10:24-25

**6. Because membership is important.**

- a. *Accountability* to a Godly life.
- b. Living in community is vital.
- c. Encouragement of *other* members / believers.

**7. Because this is part of what you were gifted to do.**

- a. Gifts are given to build up the *church* – 1 Corinthians 12:4-7.
- b. We are called to strive to excel in building up the church – 1 Corinthians 14:12b.
- c. Our gifts are for the service, edification, and encouragement of the local church , first and foremost!

**8. Because this is the pattern given to us in the New Testament.**

- a. *Acts 2:47*
- b. Paul – Timothy and Titus
- c. New converts were quickly integrated into early (local) church.

**9. Because God is greatly glorified by discipleship in the local church.**

- a. Purity glorifies God.
- b. A church distinct from the world glorifies God.
- c. The aim of discipleship is maturing in an understanding, application, and passing on of the truth!



## *Discipleship for Everyday Life*

### *"The Discipleship Meeting"*

May 8, 2011

Intro: Let me bring you up to speed on where we have been...

1. Biblical philosophy of life and ministry
2. Vision... Why make disciples?
3. Barriers to making disciples
4. Qualifications... What to look for in a potential disciple.
5. The need for personal holiness
6. 4 aspects of disciple-making
7. Discipleship in the context of the local church
8. The Discipleship Meeting

#### **Pop-Quiz!**

1. Does anyone have the Great Commission memorized?
2. Does anyone have 2 Timothy 2:2 memorized?
3. Does anyone have the definition of discipleship memorized?
4. Does anyone remember the three ongoing questions that we need to be asking as we seek to make disciples.
  1. Where are they now?
  2. Where am I taking them?
  3. What is their next step (or) How am I going to get them there?

The Goal: We are trying to move those that we are discipling to **maturity** in Christ.

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

***Colossians 1:28-29***

- One key element of your discipleship and is your one-on-one meeting.
- There needs to be a time be it once a week, every other week, or once a month that you meet with your disciple for the purpose of encouragement, accountability, teaching, prayer...
- Two types of interaction with those whom you disciple:
  1. **Informal** Time – Non planned, fun, spontaneous, bonding, opportunity for them to see you outside of the “classroom,” you are relating more as peers, relational...
  2. **Formal** Time – planned, intentional, instructional, consistent...
- There needs to be a fair balance of both!

#### **I. Pre-Meeting Principles:**

1. You cannot give away what you don't **have**.
  - a. If you are running on E spiritually, you won't have much to give away.
2. Come having **prayed** for your time together.
  - a. God would give you **wisdom** and discernment as you impart Biblical truth.
  - b. God would give your disciple(s) **humble**, hungry, receptive hearts.
  - c. That God would be glorified as his children are rooted and established in the truth.
3. Come **prepared**... Don't fly by the seat of your pants or try to “wing it”.
  - a. You are investing – Use your time wisely!

4. Come having already spent in **evaluation**.
  - a. Where are they **now**? Be realistic about their current maturity and what would be most helpful.
  - b. Where am I taking **them**? Keep your goals in mind / in front of you.

## II. **Discipleship Group**:

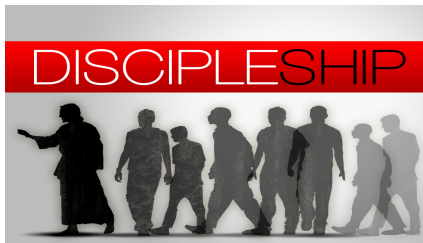
Components of Discipleship Meeting...

1. **Informal Time**
  - a. Spend time catching up (small talk).
  - b. Converse over a shared **hobby** or area of interest.
  - c. Enjoy a cup of coffee together.
  - d. Play a short a game together.
  - e. Do something to foster **laughter**!
2. **Prayer**
  - a. Spend time praying through the **Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication** method.
  - b. Pray for those you are engaging in **ministry** (Evangelism . Discipleship).
  - c. Pray for the **world** (Operation World).
  - d. Pray that God would grow you each in the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
  - e.
3. **Accountability**
  - a. Time in the Word and Prayer.
  - b. Completion of last week's homework.
  - c. Areas of known temptation and sin.
  - d. Time management
4. **Teaching** – What is their next step?
 

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Assurance of salvation</li> <li>b. <b>Position</b> in Christ</li> <li>c. Practical implications of the gospel</li> <li>d. Separation from sin</li> <li>e. The role of the <b>Holy</b> Spirit</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. The <b>character</b> of God</li> <li>g. Walking by faith and not by sight</li> <li>h. Evangelism</li> <li>i. Scripture memory</li> <li>j. Prayer</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>k. Use of <b>time</b></li> <li>l. Lordship of Christ</li> <li>m. The <b>tongue</b></li> <li>n. The <b>will</b> of God</li> <li>o. Bible study</li> </ol>
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5. Discussion
  - a. Ask good, **open-ended**, questions.
  - b. Let them **talk**!
  - c. Don't give them all of the answers.
  - c. Let them come to **conclusions** themselves.
6. Targeted **Application**
  - a. What did I learn about **God**?
  - b. What did I learn about **myself**?
  - c. What does God want me to **do** with what I learned?
  - d. Better to have 1 clear application and follow-through that to have 5 points of application and do nothing with them.
7. **Expectations** for next meeting
  - a. Bible study for the coming week.
  - b. Something extra-biblical to be **reading**.
  - c. Scripture to memorize.

8. Pray / Close

- a. **Thank** God for your time together.
- b. Pray over things that you have learned.
- c. Bring the coming **week** before the Lord.



## *Discipleship for Everyday Life*

### *"The Discipleship Meeting"*

May 15, 2011

#### **I. Components of Discipleship Meeting**

1. **Informal** Time
  - a. Spend time catching up (small talk).
  - b. Converse over a shared **hobby** or area of interest.
  - c. Enjoy a cup of coffee together.
  - d. Play a short game together.
  - e. Do something to foster **laughter**!
2. **Prayer**
  - a. Spend time praying through the Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication method.
  - b. Pray for those you are engaging in **ministry** (Evangelism . Discipleship).
  - c. Pray for the **world** (Operation World).
  - d. Pray that God would grow you each in the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
3. **Accountability**
  - a. Time in the Word and Prayer.
  - b. Completion of last week's homework.
  - c. Areas of known temptation and sin.
  - d. Time management
4. **Teaching** – What is their next step?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Assurance of salvation</li><li>b. <b>Position</b> in Christ</li><li>c. Practical implications of the gospel</li><li>d. Separation from sin</li><li>e. The role of the <b>Holy</b> Spirit</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>f. The <b>character</b> of God</li><li>g. Walking by faith and not by sight</li><li>h. Evangelism</li><li>i. Scripture memory</li><li>j. Prayer</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>k. Use of <b>time</b></li><li>l. Lordship of Christ</li><li>m. The <b>tongue</b></li><li>n. The <b>will</b> of God</li><li>o. Bible study</li></ol>
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5. Discussion
  - a. Ask good, **open-ended**, questions.
  - b. Let them **talk**!
  - c. Don't give them all of the answers.
  - c. Let them come to **conclusions** themselves.
6. Targeted **Application**
  - a. What did I learn about **God**?
  - b. What did I learn about **myself**?
  - c. What does God want me to **do** with what I learned?
  - d. Better to have 1 clear application and follow-through that to have 5 points of application and do nothing with them.
7. **Expectations** for next meeting
  - a. Bible study for the coming week.
  - b. Something extra-biblical to be **reading**.
  - c. Scripture to memorize.



8. Pray / Close

- a. **Thank** God for your time together.
- b. Pray over things that you have learned.
- c. Bring the coming **week** before the Lord.

**II. Using a Christian Book in your Discipleship / Mentoring Relationships**

1. Why the use of a book can be helpful in your discipleship:
  - a. The benefit of stimulating **conversation** with the author.
  - b. There is a wealth of **knowledge** and wisdom in books that God has used godly men and women to write.
  - c. Reading a book by a trusted author can be like letting them lead a study that you and your disciple(s) can attend.
2. What to look for when choosing a book to read:
  - a. Two different kinds of books
    1. **Doctrinal** - Teaching oriented, will be more didactic and systematic, imparting the truths of Christianity.
    2. **Devotional** – Typically seek to take biblical truth (theology / doctrine) and apply it to our lives.
  - b. Look for a book that will meet a **need** or speak to an interest in your disciple(s) life.
    1. Look back at discipleship meeting #4 Teaching.
  - c. Do not choose a book based solely on its **title**.
    1. “Christian” bookstores can be one of the most **dangerous** places if you don’t know what you are looking for.
    2. Choose a book based on its **author** not its title.
    3. Look at who **endorsed** the book... If they aren’t familiar, trusted names...PUT IT DOWN.
    4. Be cautious when you see endorsements made by editorial magazines.

Trusted Authors:

Jerry Bridges	Mark Dever	Linda Dillow	Martyn Lloyd-Jones
John MacAurthur	RC Sproul	Elyse Fitzpatrick	James Montgomery Boice
John Piper	Lou Priolo	Charles Spurgeon	Tim Keller
C.J. Mahaney	Paul Tripp	A.W Pink	Ed Welch
Al Mohler	Tedd Tripp	A.W Tozer	D.A. Carson
Wayne Mack	Steven Lawson	Jay Adams	Puritan Works

3. Helpful thoughts on how to read / use a Christian book:
  - a. Read a book with a **pen** in hand – mark it up!
  - b. Take notes
  - c. **Converse** with the author.
  - d. Read the book for yourself, but also thinking for points of conversation with your disciple(s).
  - e. Ask questions that help your disciple(s) **apply** the book to their life.
4. What else can be used as edifying reading material:
  - a. Good **Articles** - Discipleship Journal <http://www.navpress.com/dj/>
  - b. Read good **sermons**
  - c. Read good commentaries – Be careful that you don’t teach them to use this as a crutch for Bible study.
  - d. Read a **Confession** of Faith – Talk about the doctrine that it contains.
  - e. Follow blogs of men who interact with culture from a distinctly biblical **world-view**.
    1. Tim Challies <http://www.challies.com/>
    2. Al Mohler <http://www.albertmohler.com/>
    3. Phil Johnson <http://teampyro.blogspot.com/>
    4. Justin Taylor <http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justintaylor/>
  - e. Read **secular** magazines – Exposes them to the mind of the world vs. the mind of Christ.



## *Discipleship for Everyday Life* *"How to lovingly confront"*

May 22, 2011

### **I. Introduction:**

The overarching principle for confronting / correcting is found in Ephesians 4:15... Speak the **truth** in **love**.

Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

***Ephesians 4:15***

- Biblical correction is not **easy** but it is required.
- The cost of being **unwilling** to correct is greater than the correction itself.
- There is a difference between biblical correction and being judgmental. Luke 6:37 | John 7:24 | Romans 2:1-3
  - Biblical correction seeks to **restore**.
  - A judgmental / critical spirit seeks to **condemn**.
- To strip life of all analysis (Judgments) will produce a society with no **standards**.

### **II. Three Misconceptions:**

**Misconception 1** – It's not my **responsibility**.

- That is for the Pastor's or Elder's...
- God will convict their heart...
- Surely someone else sees this issue and will say something...

I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to *instruct* one another.

***Romans 15:14***

- Instruct = Noutheteo – Reprove gently or to admonish...
- We have the responsibility as fellow believers to help each other grow in holiness.
- When we see a believer not acting in line with the Word of God, speaking the truth in love, we need to correct them.

**Misconception 2** – Who am I to tell someone else that they are **wrong**?

- Your ability to correct someone is not dependent upon your moral **perfection**.
- It does require **humility**!
- Biblical correction is not aimed at bringing the offender before you, but before the Lord.
- It is motivated by a desire for another to receive the **grace** of conviction, confession, repentance, and forgiveness.

**Misconception 3** – If I correct them they will no longer be interested in my **friendship**.

- One reason that we would refuse to correct another person is because we love something else **more** than God.
  - We love the relationship and do not want to risk it...
  - We love peace, respect, appreciation, and approval...
- Our responsibility should not be conditioned by another's potential **response**.

Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

***Proverbs 27:5-6***

### **III. How to Admonish:**

#### **1. Do it in Private**

If your brother is against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him *alone*. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

***Matthew 18:15***

Notice a couple of things here:

1. If he *sins*. We are not admonishing because someone gets on our nerves... What sin is involved?
2. Go and tell him, between you and him *alone*.
  - You may need to get others involved later, but first go alone!
  - There is also no need to share the offender's sins as *prayer* requests...
  - Great Principle: Talk to people, not *about* people!

#### **2. Don't Flatter**

- There is no need to "butter someone up" before you correct them.
- This is *false* love, and manipulative.
- We definitely need to be gracious, but there is no need to hide behind loose words.

A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.

***Proverbs 29:5***

#### **3. Don't Hint**

- Maybe I will just hint at the issue and he will get the point...
- We hint because we are afraid to be *honest*.
- Hinting shirks our responsibility to present everyone mature in Christ (Colossians 1:28-29).

I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable.

***Acts 20:20***

#### **4. Keep a Spirit of Gentleness**

- We are not *immune* from committing the same sin that we are seeking to correct...
- We are seeking to restore.
- Jesus is our model... He came in *grace* and *truth*. John 1:14

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.

Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

***Galatians 6:1***

### **IV. The 2 Timothy 3:16 Model:**

1. **Teach** – Do they know what the Bible teaches about this? Discern between ignorance and defiance.
2. **Reprove** – "Expose" that the behavior does not match the teaching.
3. **Correct** – Don't leave it at the reproof...positively correct them!
4. **Encourage** / Training – This is where we take the time and effort to help them embody the Word. James 1:22

***Wrap Up:***

- Which of the four are the easiest for you? Teaching and encouraging...
- You cannot develop Christ-centered disciples without reproof and correction.
- Though speaking the truth in love requires risk... risk is right and the result is honoring to Christ.