

Discipling

Overcoming Excuses & Barriers

September 24, 2017

Opening Questions

- 1) What are some common reasons that a person might give for *not* engaging in discipling relationships?
- 2) What are the long term effects for not discipling?
- 3) What are the personal benefits for discipling?

**This morning, we will explore why discipling
promotes spiritual growth in order to
bolster our efforts to make Christ known
in our sphere of influence.**

Excuse #1 - I don't want to be in a position of “authority.”

- **Our culture struggles with the idea of authority being good.**
- **Jesus teaching on authority and servanthood.**
 - **Matthew 28:18-20 – Jesus authority and command to us.**
 - **John 13:14 – washing disciples feet.**
 - **Matthew 20:25-28 – not served, but to serve.**

Excuse #2 - Intentional discipling relationships turn friends into projects.

- John 15 and Jesus' definition of "friendship" and "love."
- Ephesians 5:1-2 – Christ's intentional sacrifice.

Excuse #3 - I just don't feel like it and I don't have the time.

- We love others because God first loved us.
- To challenge them to live their life with Christ at the center is the most loving thing you can ever do for them.
- Is the problem really time, or prioritization of time?
- Static expectation for our relationships – we don't have the time to do all the things that might help, so we don't bother doing anything that helps.

Excuse #4 - I don't have anything I can "teach."

- The gospel is great discipling content (Titus 3:1-8).
- You always have something you can teach.

Excuse #5 - I'm just not gifted to disciple others.

- **We all have different gifts we can pass on.**
- **You don't have to do this on your own.
Encourage to join your small group or invite to church.**

Overcoming Fears of Discipling.

- **Discipling is serious . . . some fear is good.**
 - **Matthew 18:6**
 - **II Peter 2:1**

Dealing with General Fears.

- **God has a plan to work through his people.**
 - I Corinthians 16:10-11
 - I Corinthians 1:25-27
 - II Timothy 1:7
 - I Timothy 4:12
- **Our humanity should not surprise them.**

Three practical steps – things to do this week.

- 1) Write out your own barriers and excuses and submit them to the light of Scripture.**
- 2) Think through your schedule and think about how you can prioritize discipling more in your life.**
- 3) Take some teaching(s) from today and pass it on to someone this week.**

Conclusion

- **Despite our fears, discipling is rewarding!**
- **God chooses us to do this good work!**
- **Ultimately this all is accomplished through the power of God's Word!**

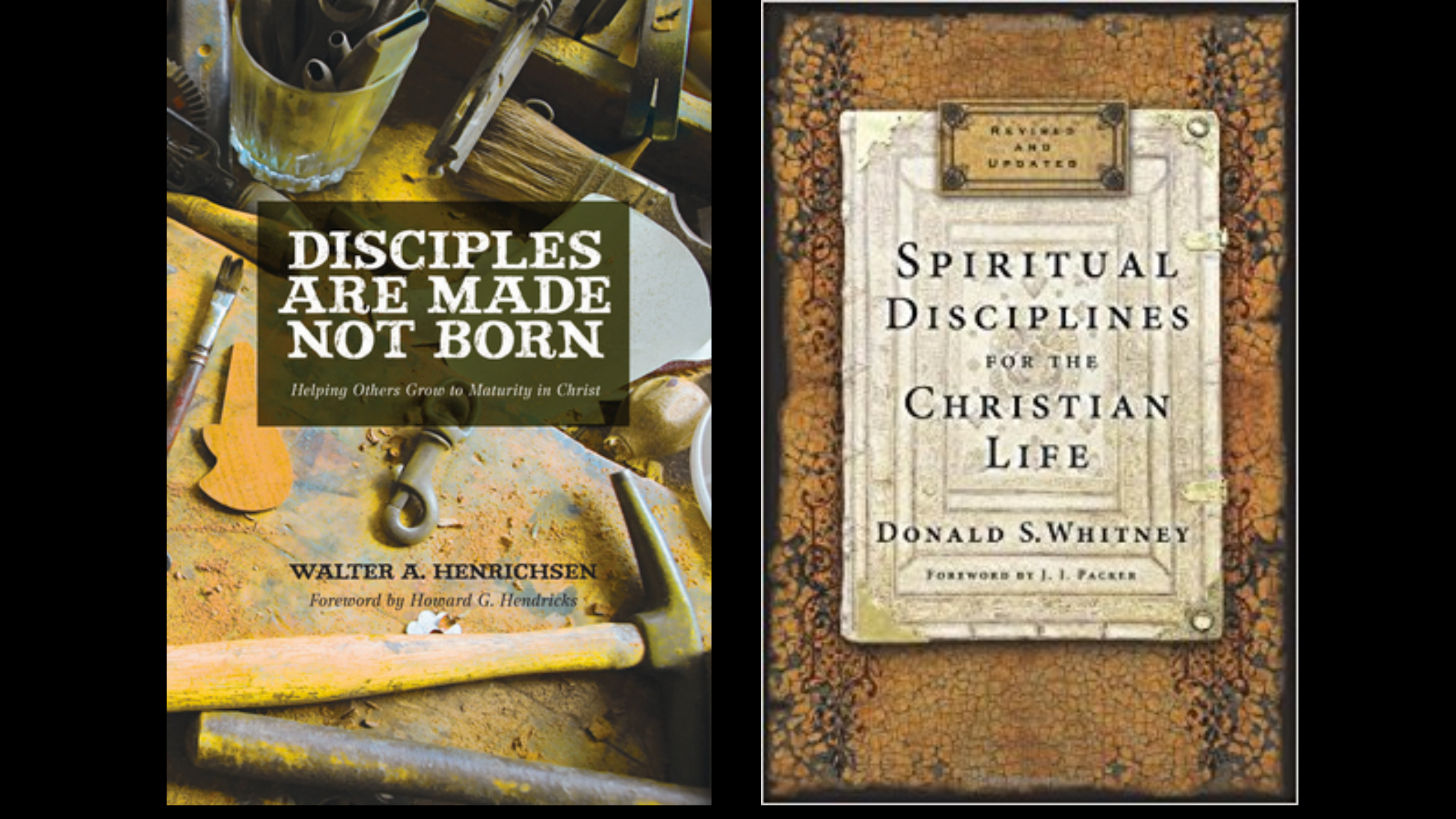


DISCIPLES ARE MADE NOT BORN

Helping Others Grow to Maturity in Christ

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Foreword by Howard G. Hendricks



REVISED
AND
UPDATED

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

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FOREWORD BY J. I. PACKER