

The Master Plan Of Evangelism

By Robert E. Coleman

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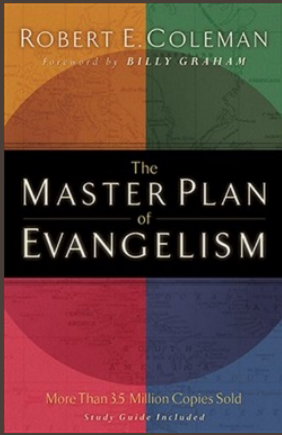
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Jesus moved on earth with a deliberate strategy of evangelism

As he was executing his plan, he was also setting forth a strategy of evangelism for his church for all time

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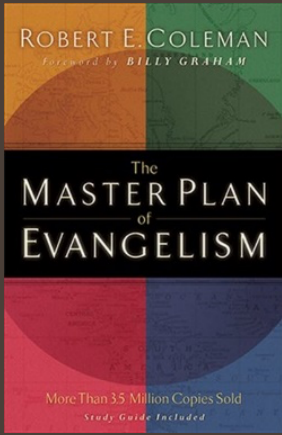
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Our task is not to invent a new strategy, but to rediscover Jesus'

This may require the loss of some religious activities and/or the altering of organizational structures

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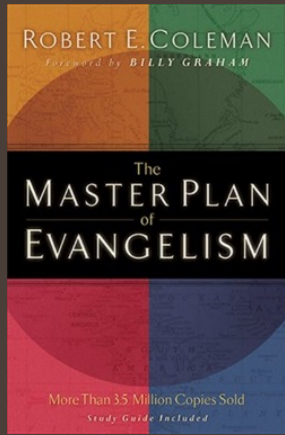
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In this book, Robert E. Coleman has identified 8 principles that he believes Jesus operated by:

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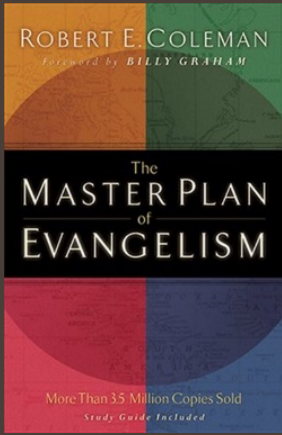
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Define evangelism

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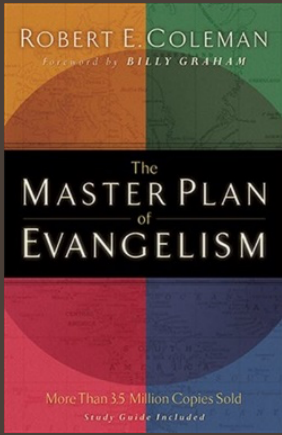
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What is the primary objective of the Church, according to Jesus?

What is the primary objective of our church?

Is the organization of activity of our church set up to achieve the objectives Jesus gave us?

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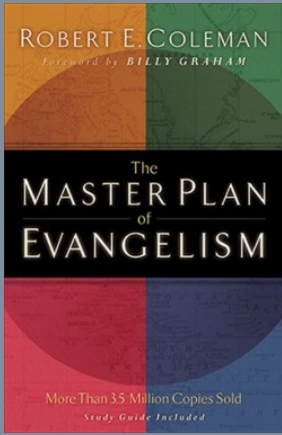
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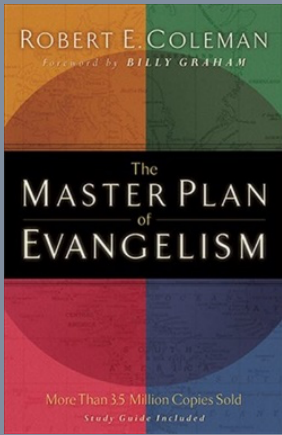
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What is the first principle?



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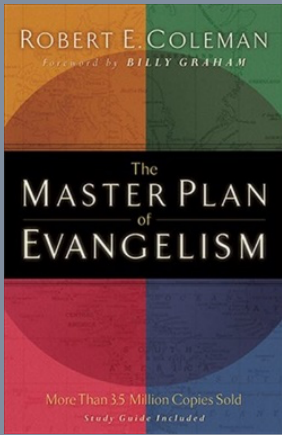
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Men Were His Method

- Jesus gathered men before he preached a public sermon
- Jesus enlisted men who would carry on his work after he returned to the Father
- The significance of their lives would be felt throughout eternity

What kind of men did Jesus enlist?



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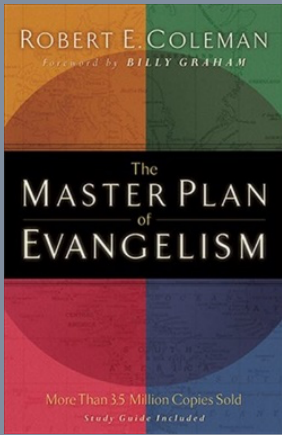
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Men Willing to Learn

- None of his chosen men were prominent, priests, highly educated, or wealthy
- They represented an average cross section of the society in their day
- They were teachable, willing to confess their need, and sincerely yearned for God
- Jesus can use anyone who wants to be used

Who did Jesus enlist?



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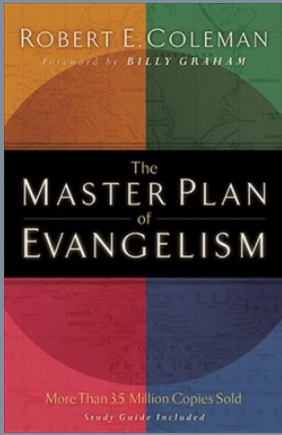
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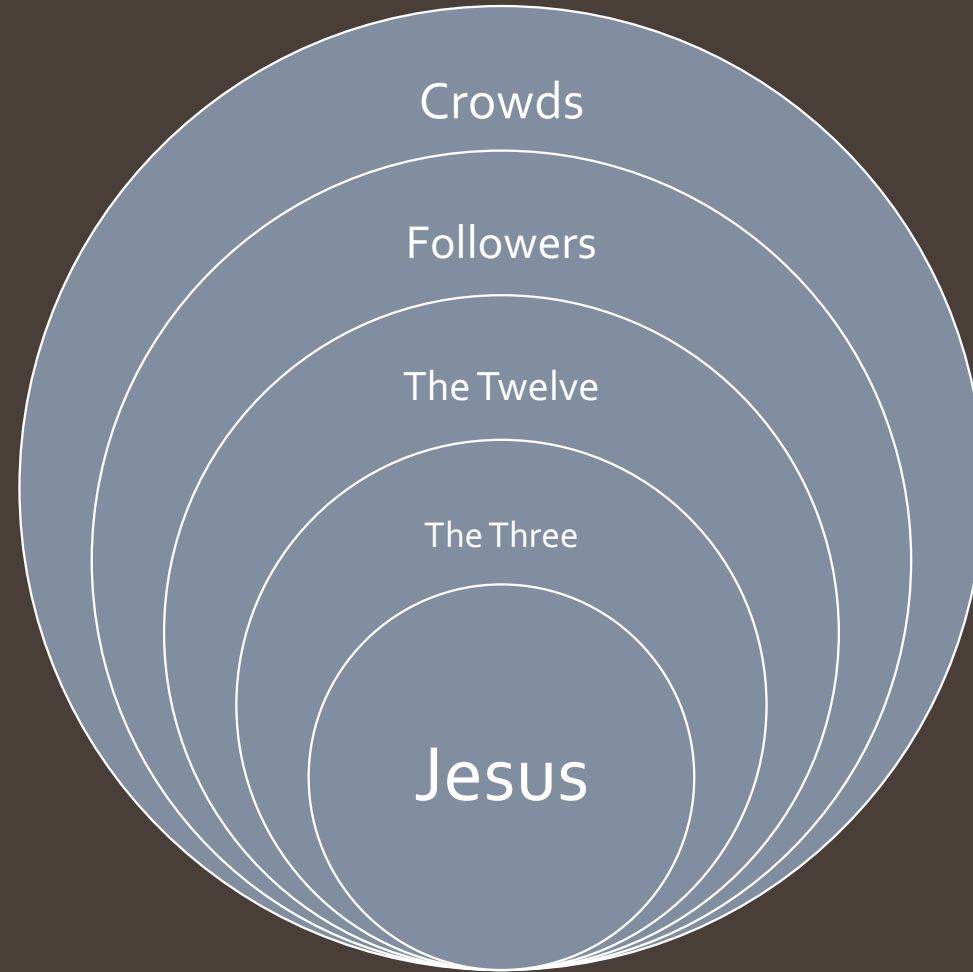
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Jesus Concentrated on a Few

- Jesus concentrated on those he intended to use
- “One cannot transform a world except as individuals in the world are transformed”
- Jesus kept the group small enough to be able to work effectively with them
- Jesus gave rapidly diminishing priority to those outside the Twelve
- Jesus gave even more priority to the Three (Peter, James, and John)



Priority Structure of Jesus:



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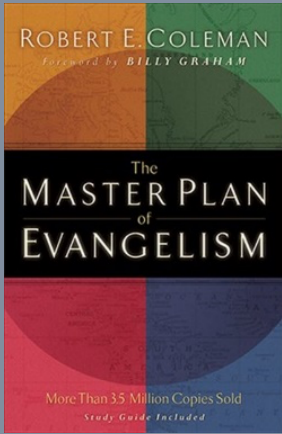
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How does this compare to 2 Tim. 2:2?



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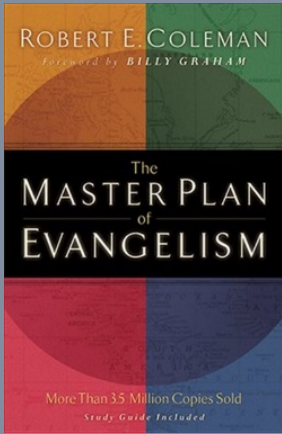
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The Principle Observed

- The more concentrated the size of the group being taught, the greater the opportunity for effective instruction
- Jesus devoted his remaining life on earth to these few disciples. He staked his whole ministry on them.
- In the high priestly prayer of John 17:6-19, 14 of 26 verses relate directly to The Twelve.

Did Jesus ignore the multitudes?



Not Neglecting the Masses

- Jesus continuously preached to the crowds, he did not shirk mass evangelism

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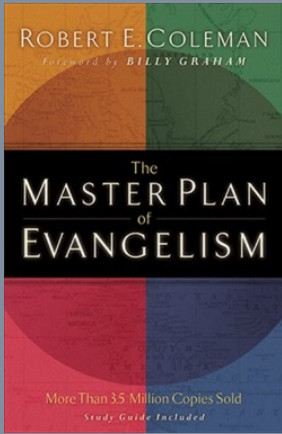
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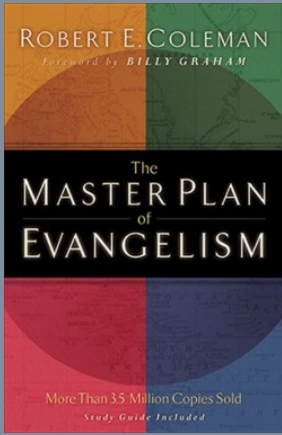
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Multitudes Aroused

- Jesus did not lack a popular following among the masses (John 6:15)
- Jesus avoided the superficial popular support of the multitudes
- His disciples and family did not understand his strategy

How many devoted followers did Jesus have at the time of his death?



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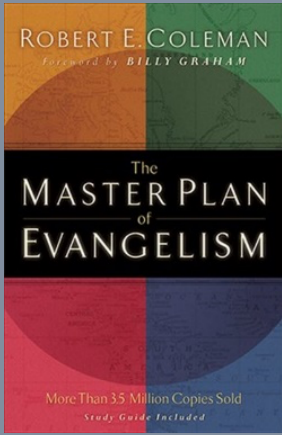
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Few Seemed to Understand

- Few people were actually converted during the 3 year ministry of Christ
- Only about 500 were present when Christ appeared (1 Cor. 15:5) and only 120 stayed in Jerusalem (Acts 1:15)



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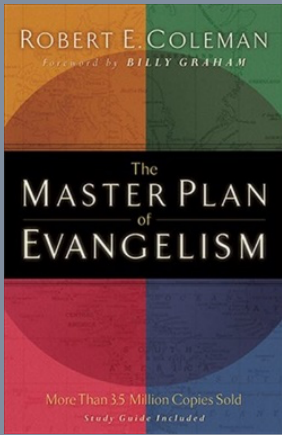
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His Strategy

- Jesus was not trying to impress a crowd, but to usher in a kingdom. This meant that he needed people who could lead the multitudes.
- Though he did what he could to help the multitudes, he had to devote himself primarily to a few men, rather than the masses, so that the masses could at last be saved.

What are some issues with this?



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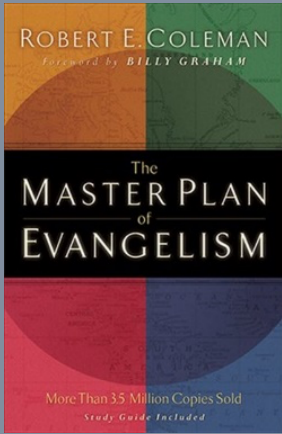
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The Principle Applied Today

- This will require more concentration of time and talents on fewer people in the church, while not neglecting the passion for the world
- It will mean raising up trained disciplers
- Some may claim that this means showing favouritism towards a select group in the church, but this is what Jesus did
- Everything that is done with the few is for the salvation of the multitudes

Where else has this been used?



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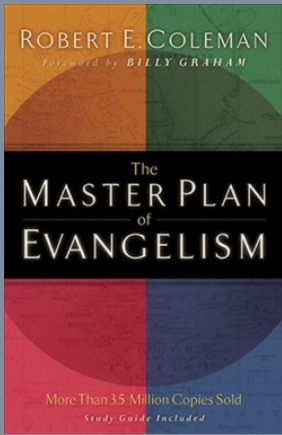
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Modern Demonstrations

- This principle has been used in business, industry, government, military, etc.
- The multitudes can be won easily if they are just given leaders to follow



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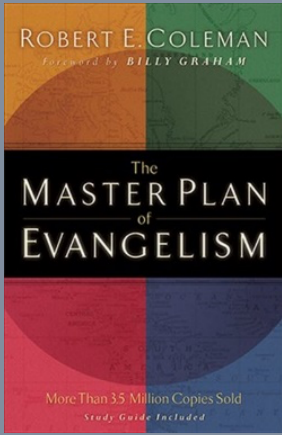
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Time for Action

- The evangelistic program of the Church has slowed on almost every front
- We should focus on training up those who can lead and disciple others
- 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
- which generation we are living for?



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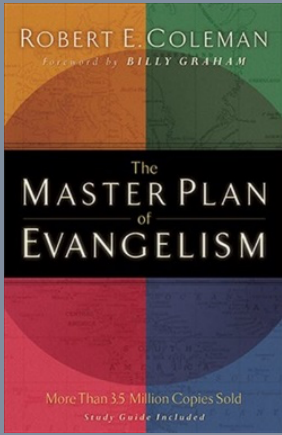
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Who are you currently discipling?

*What should you look for in
someone to disciple?*

*What would you want to see
accomplished in their life?*



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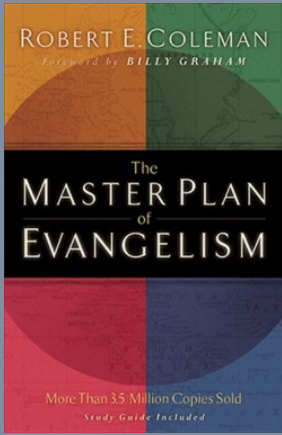
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What is the second principle?



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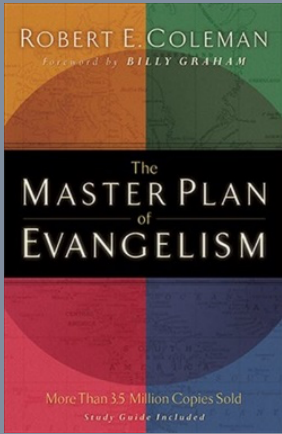
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He Stayed with Them

- The essence of Jesus' training program was just to let his disciples follow him (the pedagogy of Jesus)
- His disciples were distinguished not by outward conformity to certain rituals but by being with him and participating in his doctrine



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Impartation

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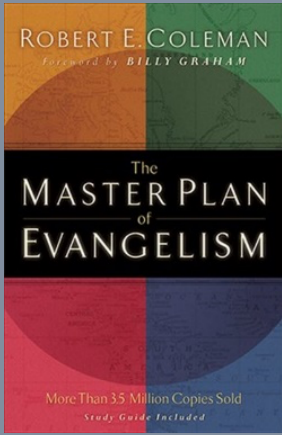
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To Know Was to Be With

- Knowledge was gained by association before it was understood by explanation
- One living sermon is worth a hundred explanations

How did Jesus call his disciples?



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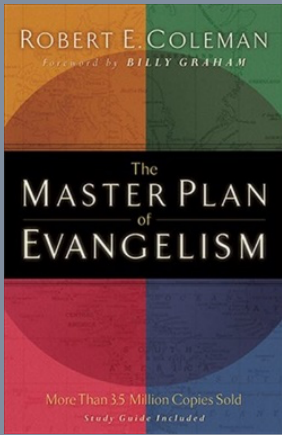
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The Principle Observed

- By responding to Christ's invitation to "come and see" and to "follow me", they effectively enrolled themselves in the Master's school. In his presence they could learn all they needed to know
- The Twelve were chosen "that they might be with him" (Mark 3:14, Luke 6:13)
- Before they were to preach or cast out devils they were to be with him

Did they get less attention over time?



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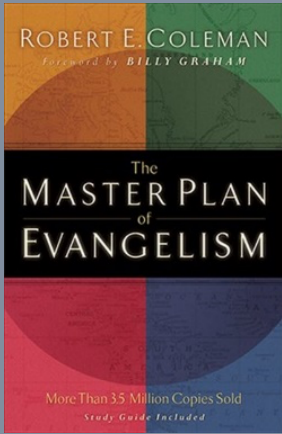
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Closer as Training Ends

- As his ministry neared its end, Jesus gave more time to his chosen disciples, not less
- As he neared Jerusalem, he “took the twelve disciples apart” (Matthew 20:17)
- During the passion week Jesus was always with his disciples, even when praying in Gethsemane
- Jesus appeared to his disciples after his resurrection to revive their faith so they could take what they had learnt to others

Did Jesus ignore the multitudes?



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Consecration

Impartation

Demonstration

Delegation

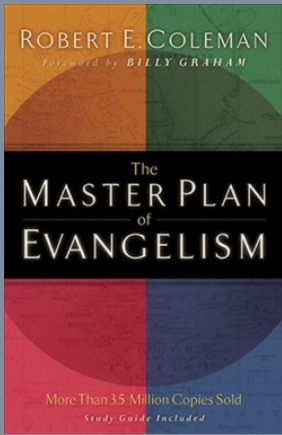
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Still Ministering to the Masses

- Jesus taught his disciples while ministering to the masses (on the job training)

What was this like for Jesus?



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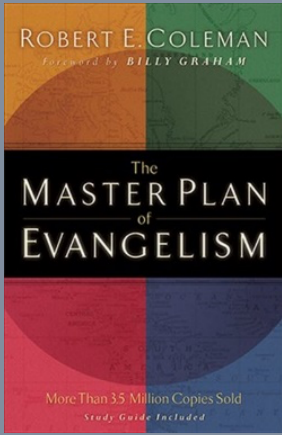
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It Takes Time

- Jesus had virtually no time to call his own
- His disciples were his spiritual children, constantly interrupting him with their needs
- Jesus wanted it this way
- The only way that a father can properly raise a family is to be with it

Did Jesus give time to anyone else?



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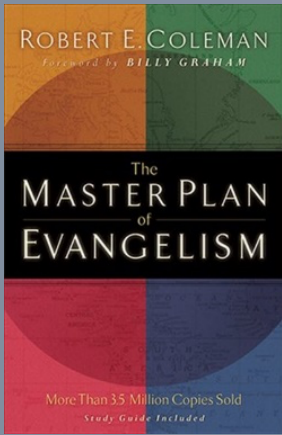
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The Foundation of Follow-Up

- Jesus had been training men to be his witnesses by being “with them” (John 15:27)
- Jesus gave some of his time to others as well (Zacchaeus, the people in Samaria, Mary and Martha, etc.) but not as much as he did to his disciples
- Jesus did not have time to give constant attention to everyone



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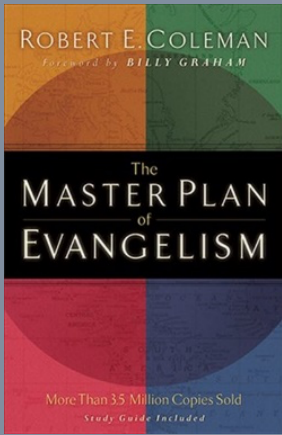
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The Church as a Continuing Fellowship

- The church principle: one believer is brought into fellowship with all the others
- Most references to the disciples as individuals refers to failures on their part, while the references to the group as a whole more often speak of their joy, understanding, or achievement



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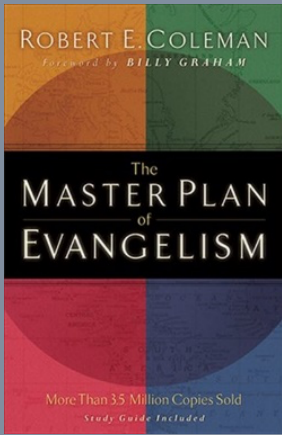
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Our Problem

- Jesus showed us that training men and women can only be done by staying close to those whom we seek to lead
- We do not have enough concern for personal association, especially when it becomes evident that such work involves the sacrifice of personal indulgence
- New Christians are often left entirely on their own to find solutions to practical problems confronting their lives



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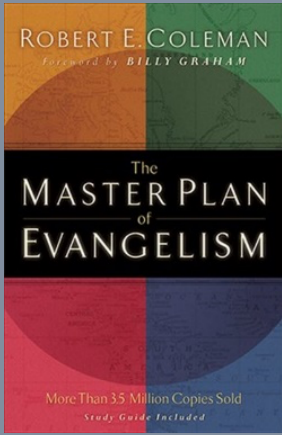
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Our Problem (continued)

- About half of those who make professions of faith and join the church eventually fall away and fewer still grow in sufficient knowledge and grace to be of any real service to the Kingdom
- “If Jesus, the Son of God, found it necessary to stay almost constantly with his few disciples for three years, and even one of them was lost, how can a church expect to do this job on an assembly line basis a few days out of the year?”



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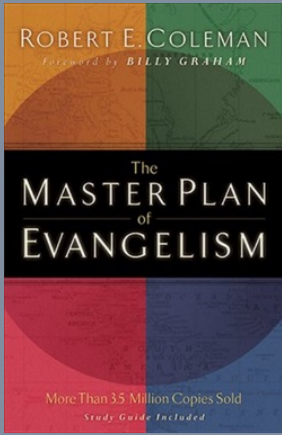
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The Principle Applied Today

- Churches must have a personal guardian concern for those entrusted to their care
- Someone must stay with every convert as much as possible until they can lead someone else



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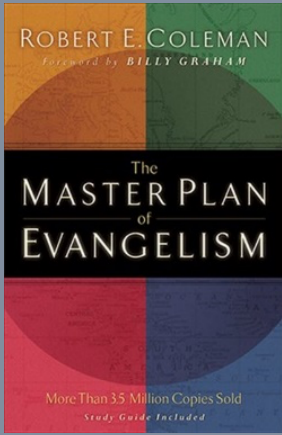
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Who are you currently discipling?

*How much time are you spending
with them?*

Is it only when it is convenient?



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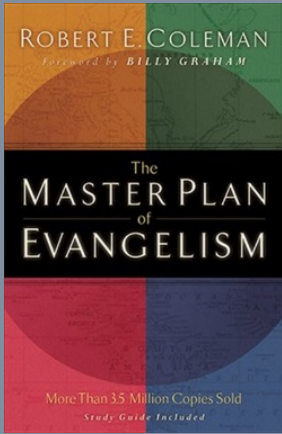
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What is the third principle?

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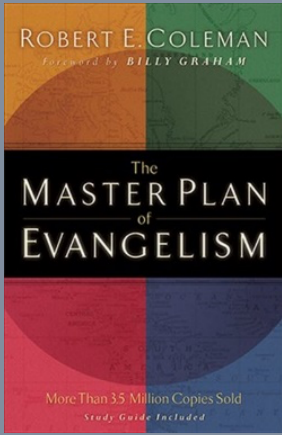
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What does it mean to be consecrated?

“To be dedicated for a sacred office or as an object for sacred purposes.”

Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible



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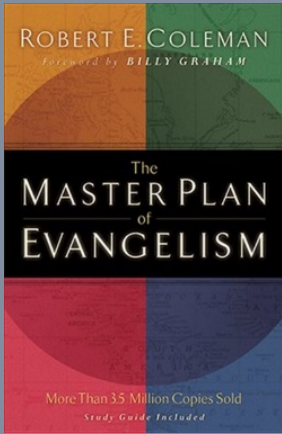
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*What does it mean to be
consecrated?*

“The devoting or setting apart of
anything to the worship
or service of God.”

Easton's Bible Dictionary



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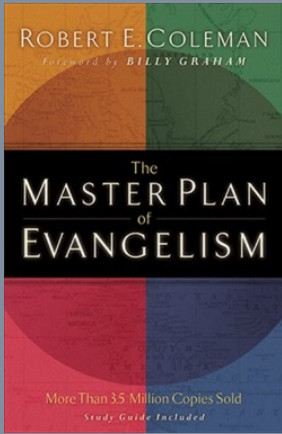
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Jesus Required Obedience

- Loyalty became the distinguishing mark by which the disciples were known

What is a disciple?

- The disciples were learners, pupils of the Master
- Before all else the disciples were called to follow Jesus, which required faith/trust in the one followed.



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Impartation

Demonstration

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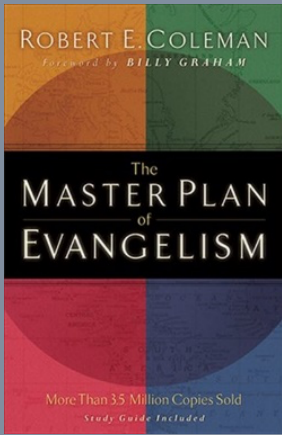
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The Way of the Cross

- There was no compromise for the disciple. It was full surrender of one's whole life to the Master in absolute submission to his sovereignty.
- There had to be a complete forsaking of sin, and an embrace of Kingdom living.

How did Jesus respond to those who refused him? How do we tend to respond?



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Impartation

Demonstration

Delegation

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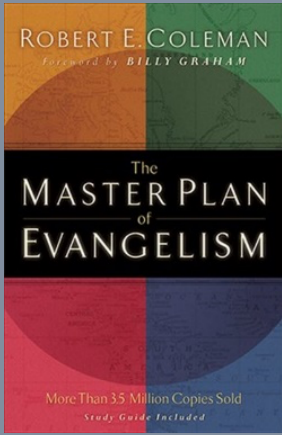
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Count the Cost

- You could not follow Jesus through the course of life without forsaking the world.

“The threefold call of Jesus to forsake family and self, bear the cross of discipleship, and renounce possessions is nothing less than the summons to a new identity, not on the basis of genetics, race or social factors, but on the basis of costly discipleship with Jesus.”

Michael Green – Evangelism in the Local Church



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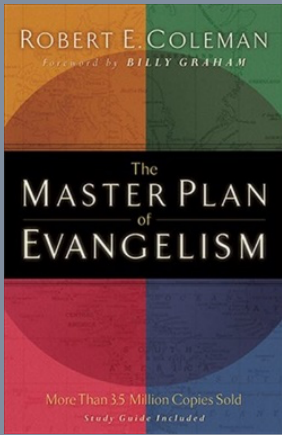
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How much did Jesus give for his followers?

How much does Jesus expect from his followers?



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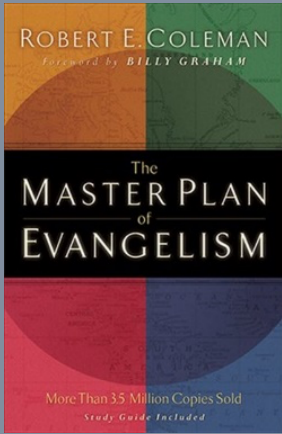
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Few Would Pay the Price

- It was those who would not go away, but instead believe the Holy One of God that would begin to receive the unambiguously revelation of the Saviour's suffering and death.

Are you ever tempted to leave? Where would you go? Will you find eternal life there?



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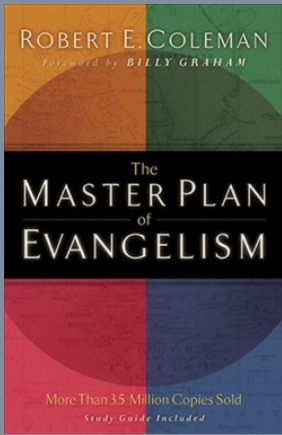
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To Obey is to Learn

- The disciple's didn't understand everything the Lord said immediately.
- Jesus patiently endured the human failings of his chosen disciples because they would grow in grace and knowledge.
- Obedience to Christ thus was the very means by which those in his company learned more truth.



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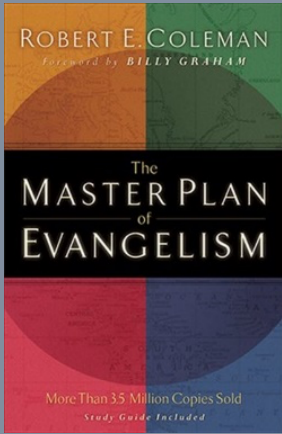
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Jesus didn't urge his disciples to commit their lives to a doctrine, but to a person who was the doctrine, and only as they continued in his Word could they know the truth.



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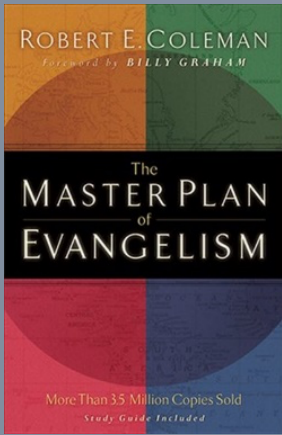
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The Proof of Love

- Supreme obedience was interpreted to be the expression of love.
- Obedience to his Word validated one's love of Christ, God's love to us, and the ability to love others.



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Demonstration

Delegation

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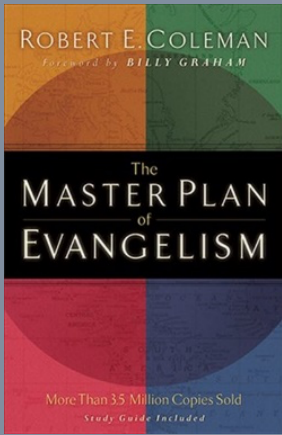
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The Proof of Love

Current teaching had:

"subtly changed the thrust of the gospel. Instead of exhorting sinners to repent, evangelicalism in our society asks the unsaved to 'accept Christ.' That makes sinners sovereign and outs Christ at their disposal...This modified gospel depicts conversion as a 'decision for Christ' rather a life-transforming change of heart involving genuine faith, repentance, surrender, and rebirth unto newness of life."

John MacArthur – The Gospel According to Jesus



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Impartation

Demonstration

Delegation

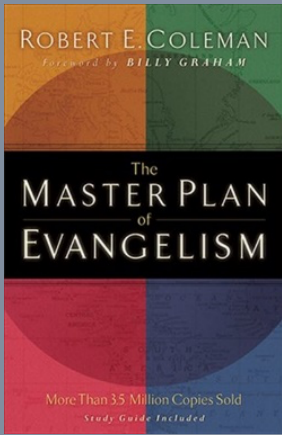
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The Proof of Love

"...While there is no question that repentance involves a change of mind, it certainly does not end there. It is a wholesale change in direction, a change in purpose, a change in attitude, and a change in affections. All of this can only be the result of God's gracious regenerating work and is therefore evidence of salvation."

Burk Parsons, ed., *Assured by God*



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Consecration

Impartation

Demonstration

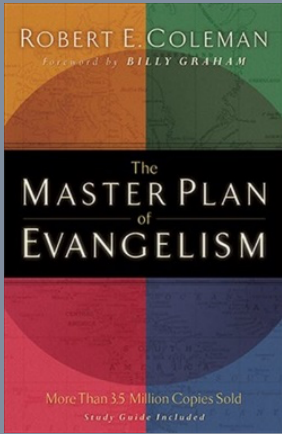
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Demonstrated by Jesus

- In his human nature, Jesus continually gave consent to the will of the Father which made it possible for God to use his life fully according to its intended purpose.
- The cross was BUT the crowning climax of Jesus's commitment to do the will of God. It forever showed that obedience could not be compromised – it was always a commitment unto death.



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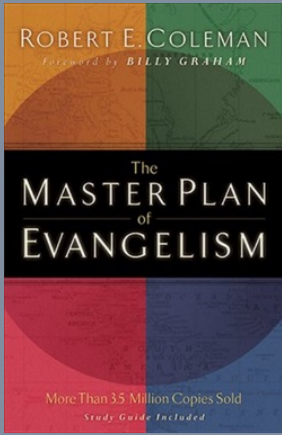
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The Principle of Focus

- There could be no development of character or purpose in the disciples without obedience.
- No one can ever be a leader until he has learned to follow a leader.
- Absolute obedience to the will of the Master is required.



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Impartation

Demonstration

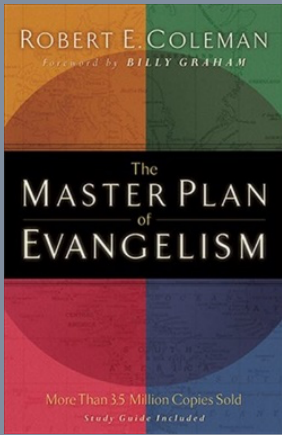
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The Principle Applied Today

- There could be no development of character or purpose in the disciples without obedience.
- No one can ever be a leader until he has learned to follow a leader.
- Absolute obedience to the will of the Master is required.



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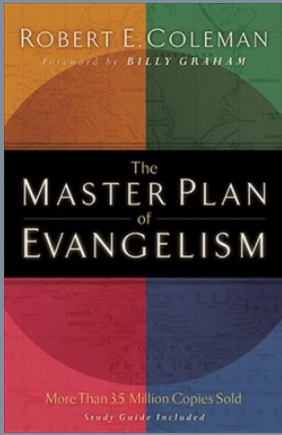
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Have you become indifferent to the commands of God (maybe contented complacency with mediocrity)?



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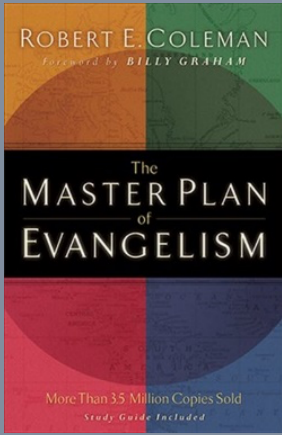
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If we have Christian friends who seem to be uninterested in obedience to Christ...

1. I resolve to ask God to develop a Christian friend in the area of obedience:
2. I will cultivate a closer acquaintance with the following person and endeavour to disciple them to lead a deeper Christian life:



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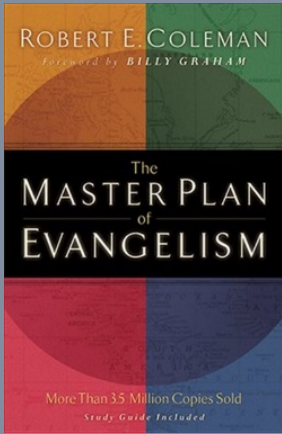
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How Would You Define “Impartation”?



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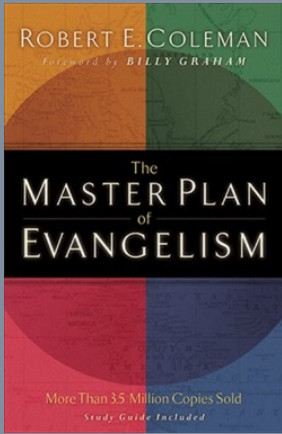
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Impartation = Self-Giving

Through Jesus' demonstration, the disciples learned what real consecration meant. The fact that they learned self-giving was to be a factor by which the multitudes were to be convinced of the reality of the gospel.



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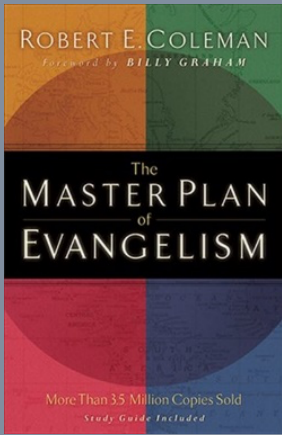
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Jesus Gave Himself Away

- He held nothing back, nothing withheld not even his own life. Jesus gave. Love is like that. It always gives itself away. God gave all he had to those he loved.
- The gift of the Holy Spirit would facilitate the disciples coming to discover a deeper understanding of the love of God for the world.



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Impartation

Demonstration

Delegation

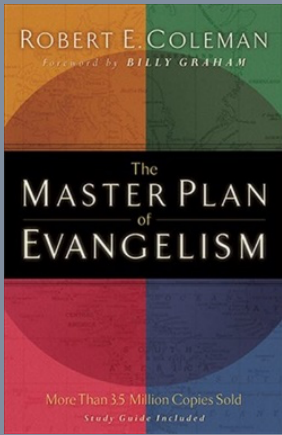
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Jesus Gave Himself Away

- He held nothing back, nothing withheld not even his own life. Jesus gave; Love is like that.
- The gift of the Holy Spirit gave the ability to grow deeper in our understanding of the love of God for the world.

Does the knowledge that Jesus renounced his own right of living and gave his life for the world help you to understand the cross better and your life in Christ more?



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Impartation

Demonstration

Delegation

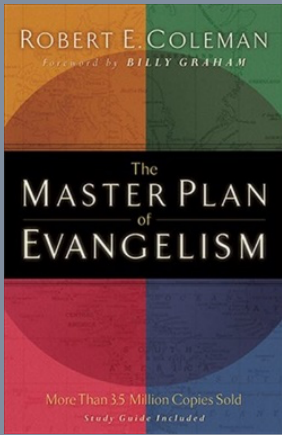
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The Compulsion of Evangelism

- Everything Jesus did and said was consumed by his consuming passion
- The disciples witnessed their Master deny himself every day.
- No service too small; no sacrifice too great when it was rendered for the glory of God.

Do we triage what we will do in sacrifice for others based on our estimation of its appeal to self?



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Impartation

Demonstration

Delegation

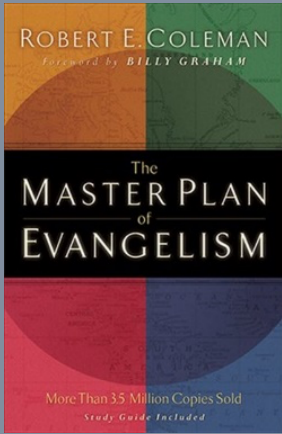
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His Sanctification

- Jesus sanctified himself to God through committed loving service to others.
- Jesus' sanctification was in the area of commitment to the work of redemption.
- Jesus appointed his disciples to go out and do his work, and thus required a full commitment every day.

What would this kind of dedication to the gospel mean for your efforts in evangelism? The church's effort?



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Impartation

Demonstration

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Supervision

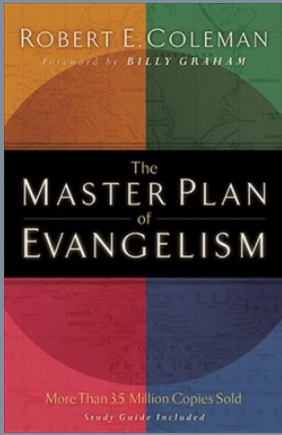
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Credentials of the Ministry

- Calvary-like love was the ideal to measure one's individual service
- The disciples were to love like Jesus
- Their love validate the gospel for people

Are we displaying Calvary-like love?

*Is that kind of love displayed in our lives
impacting our gospel witness?*



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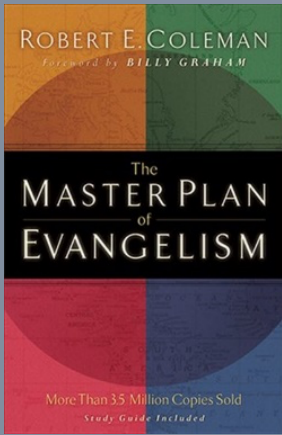
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The Work of the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit makes Christian love possible
- The Spirit regenerates, sustains, enables, and nourishes the believer
- Disciples were empowered to do what Jesus did and more
- One requirement: let the Spirit have control.

Define your daily relationship with the Spirit?



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Impartation

Demonstration

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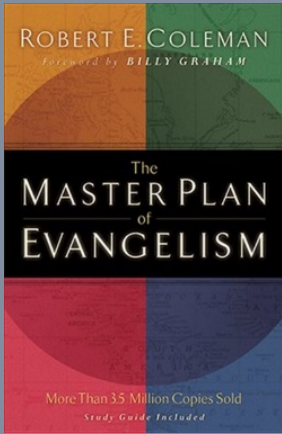
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Another Comforter

- Jesus needed to help the disciples understand their future and vital relationship with the Spirit
- The Holy Spirit was compensation for the loss of Christ in the life for the twelve
- Having the Spirit instead of Christ in the flesh was a benefit to all disciples

Is reliance on the engagement of the Spirit of God in your life vital to your life in the gospel?



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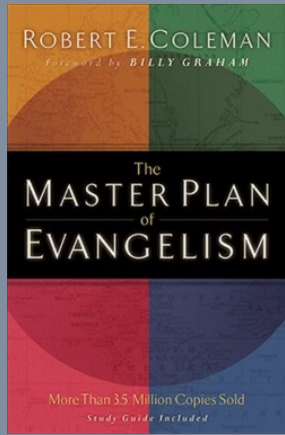
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The Great Paradox of Life

- ✓ We must die to ourselves to live in Christ
- ✓ We must give ourselves away in service to Christ



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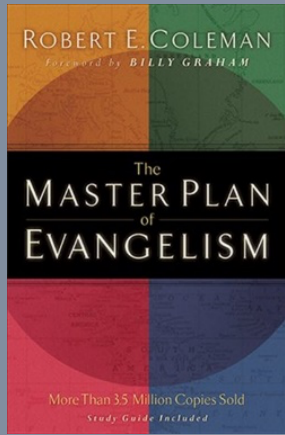
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Delegation

Supervision

Reproduction



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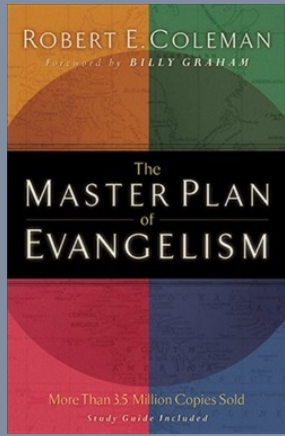
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Delegation

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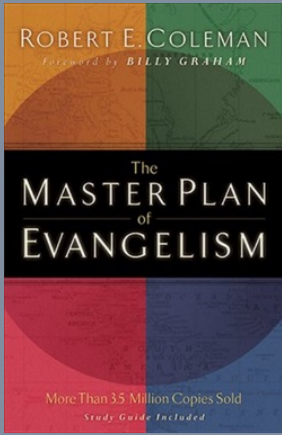
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Delegation

Supervision

Reproduction



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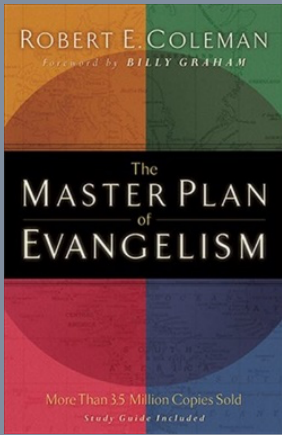
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Demonstration

Delegation

Supervision

Reproduction



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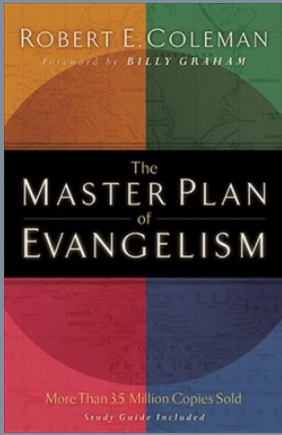
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Demonstration

Delegation

Supervision

Reproduction



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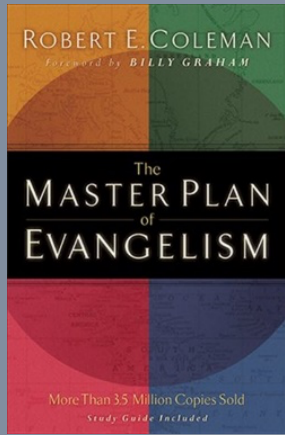
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Delegation

Supervision

Reproduction



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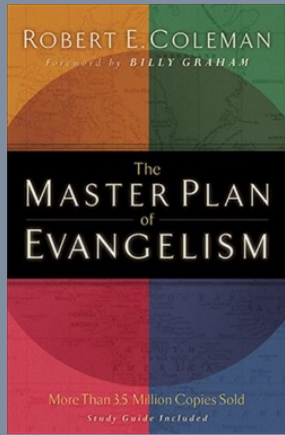
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Delegation

Supervision

Reproduction



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Demonstration

Delegation

Supervision

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