

The Philosophy of Discipleship

Evangelism and Church Growth through Multiplication

A Threefold Agenda for a Three Week “How to Disciple” Series: Goals and Structure.

- **Philosophy:**
- **Tactical:**
- **Practical:**

I. Introduction: The Necessity to _____ Biblical Discipleship.

The Need: The church is missing the _____!

God’s Solution: Paul summarizes for us the three fold _____ of the church, Col.1:27-29.

Col 1:27-29 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: (28) Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: (29) Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

Our function in the mission...

1. Preach – _____ We have a responsibility to _____ the lost.

- Mark 16:15 (it is your **Command**)
- Rom 10:15 (it is your **Call**)
- 1 Cor 1:17 (it is the simplicity of preaching **Christ**)
- 1 Cor 9:16 (it **Constrains** us! necessary),
- 2 Cor 2:17-21 (it is the new **Creature’s Nature!**)

If you are not preaching the gospel – you are a _____ Christian! Preach Christ!

KEY: Discipleship in the ideal is not when the discipleship leader comes to you and asks if you can take someone thru the lessons that has signed up at the back table!

But Discipleship is running best when you have a _____ in a new babe in Christ that you helped to deliver into the family of God!

Picture: _____

John 15: ¹⁶Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit,

- Chosen! 2 Tim 2:3-4

2. Teach - _____ We have a responsibility to disciple the _____.

Picture: _____

I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. ¹⁷These things I command you, that ye love one another.

- Commissioned! Matt 28:18-20

The resulting goals realized...

1. Perfect – Maturity in Christ.

Eph 4:11-16

2. EVERY MAN – Ministry Motto: “Every Member a _____!”

- Midtown Baptist Temple is a “disciple making, leadership training, church planting church.”

II. Understand that God’s plan for man has always been _____ – Gen 1:26-28

A. The very first words God ever spoke to man:

“Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth...”

B. God has NEVER changed that plan!

- This same commission was given to Noah, and to the Nation of Israel through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
Noah: Gen. 9:1, Abraham: Gen. 12:3, Gen 22:17, Isaac: Gen 26:4, Jacob: Gen 28:3

C. Israel brought forth the Lord Jesus Christ.

- There were two purposes for the first coming of Jesus Christ.
 1. To _____ in man the lost image of God – Col 3:10 through his death, burial and resurrection.
 2. To _____ 12 men to take his message to the world – John 17:4; this was the purpose of his 3 ½ year earthly ministry.
- His first coming was concluded by the _____ of his disciples. His “Great Commission” is exactly the same as Adam’s commission – Matt. 28:18-20
 - Bear fruit – Go, teach and baptize (spiritual fruit!)
 - Multiply – Teach them to observe all things commanded.
 - Reach the world – All nations; unto the end of the world.
 - *However – our commission is _____, not physical*

III. The FIVE primary _____ of “Great Commission”

A. *Evangelism – Bearing fruit – Col. 1:13-14 – Winning the lost is an imperative.*

1. Definition
 - The word evangelism does not appear in the N.T. but is closely related to the English word “gospel.”
2. Gospel defined in 1 Cor.15:1-4.
 - The act of translating man from the kingdom of Satan to the Kingdom of God is the act of evangelism, Col.1:13.
 - People are born sinners and destined to perish, Rom.3:23; 5:12.
 - Jesus came to seek and to save the lost, Luke 19:10; 1 Tim.1:15.
3. Gospel is personal.
 - You hath he quickened, who were dead in sin, Eph.2:1.
 - He hath quickened us together with Christ, Eph.2:5.
 - He has empowered you to serve him with his Holy Spirit, Eph.3:16.

4. Gospel is for all people.
 - Christ preached to outcasts: the Samaritans. Luke 4:43; Acts 1:8.
 - Gospel is “good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people,” Luke 2:10.
 - Who will have all men to be saved, 1 Tim.2:3-6.
 - Not willing that any should perish, but all should come to repentance, 2 Pet.3:9.
 - He is the propitiation for our sins: also the sins of the whole world, 1 John 2:2.
 - Christians are to give the gospel to the lost, Rom.10:13-15; 2 Cor.4:3-6.
 - The seed of the gospel must be sown in the hearts of men.

B. Establishment of _____ Eph 4:11-16, God’s plan for this age is the local church.

1. Jesus Christ most often related to his disciples in groups.
 - This represents the maximum efficiency in teaching.
 - Word “church” comes from the Greek word “ekklesia” meaning set apart ones.
 - A local assembly of believers called a body, 1 Cor.12:13-27
2. The _____ of the church.
 - The first church was established in Jerusalem, Acts 2:41-47
 - The gospel went out, people saved and churches were formed, Acts 14:23, 27; 15:3-4, 41; 16:5;
 - Feed the church of God, Acts 20:28; feed the flock of God, 1 Pet.5:2-4.
 - Paul planted churches and revisited the churches. He wrote 9 epistles to churches.

C. Making disciples – II Tim 2:2 – The multiplication factor.

1. Matt.28:19-20
 - *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them...*
 - Go to all people groups; give them the gospel and baptize believers.
 - Evangelize people. Converts or believers.
 - *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:*
 - Teach or make disciples.
 - A *disciple* is a student, learner, follower.
2. Disciple means “one who learns”
 - Disciple appears 232 times in the Gospels and 27 times in Book of Acts.
 - Disciple appears -0- times in the Epistles.
3. Saint means “one who is set apart”
 - This word replaced word disciple. In epistles believers are known as saints.
 - Saint appears 57 times in the epistles and Revelation.
 - Converts in Antioch were disciples called “Christians,” Acts 11:26
 - There is an end to the discipleship process. Reaching a point of maturity but never cease from further learning.
4. Jesus taught and prepared his disciples to teach other disciples.
 - He called out twelve disciples early in his ministry, Matt.10:1-4
 - Jesus taught them in 3 years.
 - 2 Timothy 2:2, demonstrates four generations continuing the same plan of multiplication.

D. Maturity! _____ our life to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ – Rom 8:2

1. The objective of _____ is to win the person and lead them to baptism.
Bringing them into the church community and the personal place of discipleship.
2. The objective of discipleship is to teach and lead them to become conformed to image of Christ. Rom.8:28-29; Eph.4:10-13; Col.1:28-29.
3. God desires to restore what Adam lost in the garden.

Restoring His glory in man.

- a. His original glory, Gen.1:26-28; Heb.2:6-8
- b. Man's fallen condition, Rom.3:23
- c. The will of God, Rom.8:21-23; Col.1:28; 3:10; Heb.2:9-10.
 - Grow to be stand perfect and complete in God's will, Col.4:12
 - Grow to walk in and be led by the Holy Spirit, Gal.5:16-18, 25
 - Grow to be preserved blameless until the coming of Christ, 1 Thes.5:23.
 - Finish the work that God began in me at salvation, Phil.1:6; Col.4:17

E. Bringing glory to God – Ecc. 12:13

- Our purpose is to bring glory to God; Isa.43:7, 21, Rom.11:36, 1Cor. 6.19-20
- In whatsoever we do, do all to the glory of God, 1 Cor.10:31.
- We are for the praise of His glory, Eph.1:6, 12, 14.
- To give thanks to God, Col.3:17; 2 Cor.4:15.

IV. These five goals can be illustrated by the _____ of raising children

- A. Evangelism – Bearing fruit through the new birth – a baby is born.
- B. Establishment of churches – That baby is brought home and placed within the family unit.
- C. Making disciples – teaching and training new converts – The child is taught the basic principles of life.
- D. Conforming our life to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ – The child grows up to be “just like dad.”
- E. Bringing God the glory – Prov 17:6 Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.
Prov 10:1, 15:20, 23:24-25, 29:3

V. All five of these goals are vitally important and none can be ignored, but discipleship holds the key position.

- A. Discipleship is the _____ between the first two goals which can be measured, and the last two goals which cannot be measured.
- B. Evangelism and church attendance are vital, but true Christianity cannot stop there, any more than family life can stop with bringing home the baby
- C. Discipleship provides people with the tools necessary to carry out their ministry and bring glory to God.

VI. Multiplication through discipleship will produce _____.

Examples:

- A. The ministry of the apostle Paul – This process is the literal fulfillment of 2 Tim 2:2.
- Ephesus – Acts 20:17-38
 - Corinth – Acts 18:1-11
 - Titus 1:5, 1Tim 3:1 – Commissioned to ordain elders.
- B. The ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ – The results of the training of the twelve: the Great Commission – Matt 28:18-20
- Started with a core group of 12.
 - As the 12 grew, he selected 70 more and used the 12 to help train the 70... (Luke 10:1) This fueled more growth in the 12.
 - Just prior to Pentecost, the nucleus was 120 – Acts 1:15
 - 3000 were saved at Pentecost, Acts 2:41
 - Membership of 5000 men by Acts 4:4
 - Turned the world upside down – Acts 17:6 within 25 years!
 - Acts 19:10 – All Asia heard the word – without TV, radio, telephones or computers, cars or airlines!)

The chart comparing evangelism (addition) to discipleship (multiplication).

If Jesus Christ had only _____.

Years	3	6	9	12	15
12 converts per 3 yrs	12	24	36	48	60
12 converts per day	13,140	26,280	39,420	52,560	65,700

Evangelism alone equals _____.

Jesus Christ disciplined and trained leaders.

Years	3	6	9	12	15
12 disciples trained to teach others	1 x 12 12	12 x 12 144	144 x 12 1,728	1,728 x 12 20,736	20,736 x 12 248,832

VII. The Great Commission can be fulfilled by any church. God has equipped us to do so, but the key is the involvement of every single individual in the ministry.

I Cor. 12:12-27, 2 Cor.5:17-20, Eph 4:11-16