

NATURE OF DISCIPLESHIP

THE BIG QUESTION

I. WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP? A 7-fold definition

“A Relationship....

...between an older and younger Christian...

...based on Scripture...

...and trust...

...that will progressively bring the younger to resemble the older

...in knowledge...life...and purpose...

...through the grace of God.”

II. IT'S IMPORTANCE: It is:

1. A command
2. Exemplified in Scripture
3. Exemplified profoundly in Jesus and Paul
4. Reasonable
5. Pragmatic
6. Not typical, sadly enough
7. The “Power Train” of the church
8. The believer’s privilege as Priest
9. A joy
10. Satisfying

III. IT'S CENTRALITY “The Power Sweep”

Four Questions to Ask

1. What kind of person are we trying to produce?
2. What kind of church produces this kind of Christian?
3. What kind of elder board and staff will produce this kind of church?
4. What kind of pastor produces the kind of leadership that produces the kind of church that produces this kind of Christian?

WHAT KIND OF PASTOR?	WHAT KIND OF LEADERS?	WHAT KIND OF CHURCH?	WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE?
Fearless Cast Vision Takes Time to Study & Pray Takes Time for Family Delegates	Orthodox - Good Mind - Sound Doctrine Have Integrity - Good Character Be Models - Do what they are told Be Social - Friendly & Loving	Need Teaching - Bible Exposition Need Training - Discipleship Group Need Trust - Opportunities to succeed or fail - Reproduction Need Time - Not busy, but fruitful	Converted - Faith is in Christ Committed - God - His Word - His People - His Cause Competent - Know Something - Feel Something - Do Something Creative - Able to go forth independently and minister

THE NATURE OF A DISCIPLE MAKER

- Discipleship is Applied Ecclesiology. The purpose of the church is to “equip the saints.”
- Discipleship is the logical outworking of someone who loves God.
- **It is not for the “professional” or the “expert;” it is for every believer.**

10 THINGS YOU MUST HAVE TO BE A DISCIPLE MAKER.

1. YOU MUST BE A DISCIPLE

You cannot do what you are not.

2. YOU MUST BE ORTHODOX

Study the Word and hold fast to the Word of Truth according to apostolic teaching

3. YOU MUST HAVE ETERNAL VALUES

Be more concerned about God and people than yourself, temporal things and “living for your belly.”

4. YOU MUST BE ABLE TO INCARNATE TRUTH

Live what you teach and allow no disparity between what you say and what you do.

5. YOU MUST HAVE A VIRILE PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL LIFE

Have a daily time of withdrawal with God to develop an invisible system of roots in your life. Otherwise, you are simply parroting what others teach you. Without it, your ministry implodes.

6. YOU MUST HAVE THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE BASIC THINGS

Be able to teach life, ministry, and about Inerrancy, the nature of Christ and salvation, dating, marriage, money, relationships, parenting, etc.

7. YOU MUST ENJOY HUMANS

Faithful people are likeable people. Develop and practice good social skills and graces, along with a sense of humor. Be winsome. People have to like spending time with you.

8. YOU MUST HAVE ABILITY TO INSPIRE

In love, challenge them to grow in the faith. This is the logical outworking of loving God. Your teaching should not be academic, but motivating to people to participate in ministry.

9. YOU MUST BE ABLE TO REPROVE

Call sin what it is, even if the person does not know that they are doing it. “I love you, but there is an area that I have observed...”

10. YOU MUST HAVE PERSEVERANCE

Do this for the rest of your life so that you are a blessing to your wife, children, and community so they can be a blessing to their wives, children, and communities. It is fulfilling the command to subdue the earth.

WHY DON'T YOU DO IT?

1. You did not know you were supposed to do so.
2. You are “too busy.”
3. You are accumulating stuff so you can have a great BIG garage sale when you die.
4. You are distracted, thinking life is about retirement, travel, square dances and dominoes.
5. You are disqualified because of your life. *Change, study and teach.*

There are many of you that have sat through sermons for 20-30 years that you don't use. What is the purpose for giving you more stuff that is unused for which you will be accountable at the Bema seat?

THE TECHNIQUE OF THE DISCIPLE MAKER

Romans 2

Nehemiah 5

1. **CHOOSE RIGHTLY AND FIND THE FAITHFUL (2 TIM 2:15; 1 COR 4:1)**
 - Don't placate false motives
2. **DO NOT MAKE OPEN-ENDED COMMITMENTS**
 - Start small and raise the bar...be progressive
3. **HAVE BOTH A FORMAL TIME AND INFORMAL TIMES**
4. **MAKE YOUR STUDY TRANSFERABLE**
5. **INVOLVE THEM IN THE BODY AND IN MISSIONS**
6. **FIND THEIR GIFTS, SKILLS, AND MOTIVATIONS**
7. **ENCOURAGE THEM**
8. **STRETCH THEM**
9. **EXPOSE THEM TO GREAT BOOKS, PEOPLE, AND TEACHERS**
10. **DEEPEN THEM. TEACH THEM "TO OBEY"**