

Process of Discipleship

Rick Warren

I. Introduction.

A. Discipleship is a relationship.

B. A disciple should be taken through stages.

1. Win him to Christ to produce a baby Christian.
2. Make him into a disciple (a self-feeder, a regular witness, a grower in character).
3. Make him into one who makes other disciples.

II. The process of discipleship.

A. Penetration, which is evangelism.

1. Character: relationship.
2. Primary activity: cultivation.
3. Goal: conversion.

B. Pediatrics, which is taking brand new Christians and helping them grow.

1. Character: spending time.
2. Primary activity: care.
3. Goal: maturity. (Ephesians 4:13-14)

C. Pace-setting, which is working one on one with a disciple.

1. Character: becoming a Paul.
2. Primary activity: coach and correct. One should only correct a person if he has proved he loves the person and if he has demonstrated that he is open to correction himself.
3. Goal: character and how to train others. (II Timothy 2:2)

D. Partnership, which is becoming a co-worker in ministry with someone.

1. Primary activity: counsel.
2. Goal: multiplication. (Matthew 28:18-20)

III. This process has no real set time.

IV. Every person can be won to Christ if his or her needs can be found.

- A. Make a list of all the needs people have today.
- B. Make a list of how God has helped you in those areas today.
- C. Cultivate a person by getting to know a person first.

V. Ten things a new Christian needs.

- A. Security in salvation.
- B. Feed himself with the Word.
- C. Prayer.
- D. Obedience.
- E. Witnessing.
- F. Dealing with temptation.
- G. Confession. (I John 1:9)
- H. Understanding trials. (Romans 8:28)
- I. Following directions.

Application questions:

1. What stood out to you about the process of discipleship? Where are you at in the process?

2. Why is having an understanding of peoples' needs helpful in evangelism?

3. Which of the things a new Christian needs do you find to be most important? Explain.
