

# **The Dynamics of Discipleship**

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## **Part 1**

- I. The greatest threat to Christianity is Christians who are trying to slip into heaven incognito.
  - A. Vacant-eyed wool gatherer.
  - B. Sleepy-headed elbow leaner.
  - C. Cross-legged fingernail checker.
  - D. Left-handed doodler.
  
- II. The Church today is facing its greatest challenge.
  - A. I have never seen the Holy Spirit working as He is right now.
    - 1. Thank God every day that He privileged you to work in this generation.
    - 2. Stop feeling sorry for yourself.
    - 3. Stop allowing the devil to sew seeds of discouragement and defeatism in your heart and mind.
  
  - B. We are living in a generation of tremendous plight.
    - 1. We are out of balance politically and spiritually.
    - 2. We live in an age without heroes.
  
  - C. There are an incredible number of Christians who are immobilized, hungry, starving for authentic Christianity.
    - 1. The way to change a society is to change the people within the society.
    - 2. The only way to change the people is through Jesus Christ.
  
  - D. I find an increasing number of laymen and pastors who are becoming aware that something is wrong, something is lacking.
    - 1. Laymen are tired of playing church.
    - 2. Pastors are more receptive than ever to discipleship.
  
  - E. The Greatest need of the contemporary church is discipleship, involvement in the discipling process.

1. The Christian life is the life of Christ reproduced in the believer by the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. If you want to find out what the Holy Spirit has as His goals for your life, drench yourself in the gospels.

F. I want to share some results to launch you on your own study.

1. The process is much more important than the product.
  - a) I could share with you all of my discoveries, and all you would have is crammed notebooks, but you wouldn't necessarily have changed lives.
  - b) One statement by your disciples is worth 400 by you.

### III. My Objectives

- A. The series is designed for you.
- B. The series is designed for you to disciple others.

### IV. What is a disciple?

- A. There is more confusion in the realm of discipleship than anything I know.
  1. Talking about discipleship is not discipling.
  2. Most of us have an extremely superficial view of discipleship.
- B. What a disciple is will determine what a disciple does.
  1. A disciple is a **learner**. (Matthew 11:25-30)
    - a) A disciple always has the characteristic of teachability.
    - b) I would rather have someone who doesn't know anything, but is teachable rather than people who have all the answers, but are not learning.
    - c) If you stop studying and learning today you stop discipling tomorrow.
  2. A discipler is a **follower**, (Mark 2:14; 3:14)
    - a) A disciple is one who follows or imitates the life and teaching of another.
    - b) People are following you. Are you following Christ?
    - c) Modeling – the greatest means of communication. (I Timothy 4:12)
    - d) A disciple is a progressing person. (I Timothy 4:15)
    - e) A disciple is not a person without problems, he is a person who knows the problem solver.

f) Your disciples can out strip you.

3. A disciple is a **reproducer**.

a) Make disciples. (Matthew 28:19-20)

b) Discipleship is never an end in itself it is always a means to an end.  
(2 Timothy 2:2)

c) In the average evangelical church you cannot find ten percent who are consistently leading people to Christ.

d) A true disciple is a disciple builder.

e) You have not trained an individual until you have equipped him to do for others what you have done for him.

f) There are four primary phases for developing reproducers.

1) The telling phase: Write it down and make a tape

2) The showing phase

3) Do it in a controlled situation

4) Do it in a real life situation

## V. Closing

A. A disciple is a **learner**. Therefore perpetuate the learning process

B. A discipler is a **follower**. Therefore make sure you provide an adequate model.

C. A discipler is a **reproducer**. Therefore be careful what you build into his life because the product is going to be around for a long time.