

The Dynamics of Discipleship

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Part 5

I. The greatest unresolved problem facing the contemporary church in the unemployment problem.

A. There are two groups of people in your church the pillars who support it and the caterpillars who crawl in and out each week.

B. It is inconceivable that God would call the church into existence and that the church should languish for lack of leadership.

1. God gives gifts to men and gifted men to the church.

2. God gives gifts, but we do not develop gifts.

II. Two basic steps in the process of making disciples.

A. Your first task in making disciples is to determine what you want to develop.

1. Objectives always determine outcome.

2. Have in mind where you are going.

3. Aristotle said that we stand a much better chance of hitting a target if we can see it.

B. Your second task in making disciples is to develop what you have determined.

1. The first deals with product and the second deals with the process.

III. What we ought to be developing in the realm of making disciples

A. What are you looking for in your disciples?

1. I am looking for a committed individual.

a) Unreserved commitment to Jesus Christ

b) Unreserved commitment to the body of Jesus Christ

c) Unreserved commitment to the ministry of God in the world

2. I am looking for a competent individual.

a) A person who knows something fully

b) A person who feels something deeply

c) A person who does something consistently

3. I am looking for a person who is creative.

a) You cannot develop a person without giving to that individual a sphere of freedom.

b) That individual has a personality and spiritual gifts with which to function in the body.

c) I want someone who can think, dream and believe God.

4. You can't find these kinds of people, but you can develop them.

IV. How did Jesus Christ go about developing such distinctiveness in His disciples?

A. Jesus Christ developed his disciples by example.

1. They observed Him in all situations

2. If what they see in your life is incompatible with what you are telling them you really do not communicate.

3. They will be like their teacher after they are fully trained. (Luke 6:40)

4. Disciples disciple the way they were disciplined. (Matthew 20:20-28; John 13:13; Philippians 4:9)

5. Make sure you share your failures with your disciples.

B. Jesus Christ developed His disciples by problems.

1. Christian education is too passive; we produce too many spectators.

2. People who are involved make better teachers.

3. Jesus knew you can't teach faith by lecture so he puts them in the laboratory. (Mark 4:1-34)

4. What are you doing to develop the faith of your disciples?

5. Our problem is that we are winning in the church, but losing like crazy outside.

6. Two things people need for growth, food and exercise. Keep them in balance.

a) Food – Spiritual obesity

b) Exercise – Spiritual anemia

7. Disciple makers get excited about what their disciples are doing.

C. Jesus disciplined his men by love.

1. Love one another as I have loved you. (John 13:34)
2. I desire that they may be with me. (John 17:24)
3. I came not to be ministered to, but to minister. (Mark 10:45)
4. A lover is a leader.
6. You cannot put a front on in the realm of love.

D. Jesus disciplined his men by faith

1. Training involves trusting.
2. The secret of making disciples is developing an incurable confidence in the Spirit's ability to change a person.
3. Study your disciples to find where they are and what they need.
4. Communicate your confidence in the Lord working in their lives.
5. Inferiority feelings are the worst problems that we have in the evangelical church.
6. Ask God to give you discernment to see way beyond where the person is now.