

# Dynamics of Discipleship

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## I. Basic Questions

### A. Why is discipleship needed?

1. Discipleship is not an option but essential because our Lord Jesus Christ commanded it.
2. The early church practiced it, as indicated in the life and ministry of Apostle Paul.

### B. What is a disciple?

1. If we are called to make a disciple, what are we called to make?

## II. Three Essential Components of a disciple:

A. A disciple is a learner – perpetuates the learning process.

B. A disciple is a follower – provides an adequate model.

C. A disciple is a reproducer – reproduces of a lifestyle, which is characterized by obedience, love and fruitfulness.

1. Be very careful of what you reproduce, it will be around for a long time.

## III. How does one make disciples?

A. Read a book by A.B. Bruce entitled *The Training of the Twelve*.

B. Master the Master's life.

1. Study the gospels.

a. Do not study them simply for the message of Christ but also for the methods of Christ.

b. We need to be reminded that not only what He said but also what He did was inspired of God.

c. He could say in every scene and circumstance of His life, "I do always those things that are pleasing to Thee."

## IV. Six Basic Principles of Being a Disciplemaker (all these emanate from the life of Jesus Christ).

A. Principle of Incarnation

1. God's method is always to take the truth and clothe it with human flesh; to take a clean man or a clean woman and drop them in the midst of corrupt society to demonstrate the power of His grace.
2. The Word became flesh and pitched His tent among us and we beheld His glory, glory of the only begotten as of the Father, full of grace and truth.
3. The Christian life is the life of Christ; it is the perfectly balanced life between grace and truth.
4. The answer to the question of why Jesus visited our planet is: to show what God would be like, and we get the answer by looking at the life of Jesus Christ.
5. We are called to be Christian leaders, behavioral models in the Christian community. ***We are models not of perfection but of progression.*** Be diligent in these matters; wholly do them so that everyone may see your progress (1 Timothy 4:15, 16).
6. Can the people in the church see Jesus being incarnated in your life? What a validation for the message!

#### B. Principle of Selection

1. Jesus did not disciple everyone, neither can you.
  - a. Jesus chose the 12 disciples. (Luke 16:12)
    - 1) He chose men with proven characteristics, who are FAT.
      - a) Faithful
      - b) Available
      - c) Teachable.
        - i. You can't lose if you are a teachable individual; and Jesus is looking for such individuals.
    - 2) Jesus' choices were bathed in Prayer. (John 17:6)
      - a) So what do we need to pray?
        - i. You need to pray that God will bring the group of men, women, kids, or couples that He gives to you.

#### C. Principle of Association

1. Jesus chose the disciples that they might be with Him and secondly that He might send them out to preach. (Mark 3:14)
  - a. The order is association before communication.

- b. It is a private involvement before a public involvement.
- c. It is relationship to Christ before relationship to others.
- d. The greatest need in discipleship training is teaching the importance of balance between involvement with people and isolation from people.
- c. On twelve different occasions Jesus took the initiative in the gospels to get the disciples along so that they might be with Him and they saw Him in real life context. They were with Him, slept with Him, saw Him when He was weary and when He faced opposition.

#### D. Principle of Training

1. Jesus went around teaching village to village (Mark 6:6-13)
2. He sent them the twelve out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.
3. We see them involved in ministry going round preaching the gospel to repent, healing the sick, driving out demons.
4. Three things going on:
  - a. Jesus demonstrated what He wanted the disciples to do.
    - 1) Everything He asked them to do, He had been doing.
    - 2) Did you ever try to get the people witness when you never witness, to give when you have never given?
  - b. He instructed them regarding the positives and negatives, what to do and what not to do, how to handle the situations.
  - c. He always sent them in two by two, in a team.
5. Jesus employed a total training model throughout His life.
  - a. Telling
  - b. Showing – not only they have to hear but also they have to see it.
  - c. Doing – doing comes in two stages
    - 1) Controlled stage
    - 2) Real life stage

#### E. Principle of Delegation

1. Every time you do anything that your people are capable of doing, you are making them discipleship cripples.

2. We see Christian parents doing too much for their kids.
3. We are bypassing the greatest opportunities for training, when we ought to be sharing the ministry with others.
4. We need to delegate and help others grow.

#### F. Principle of Expectation

1. Jesus called Peter, "Cephas," which means "rock." (John 1:42)
  - a. The basic principle here is how you see a person will determine what that person becomes.
  - b. God has that mentality while He works with a person.
  - c. We are poor predictors of winners.