

Discipleship Part 4: Disciplemaking in the Local Church

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I. Review of Parts 1-3.

A. We have looked at discipleship for three weeks.

1. We looked at what is a disciple.
2. We looked at the character of a disciple.
3. We looked at how to disciple another person.

II. Implementing this discipline in the local church.

A. Many churches succeed at the wrong things.

B. They major on minor issues.

III. How do churches organize its people?

A. Usually we do things backwards by placing too much emphasis on the leadership operating on Sunday, Wednesday, special meetings etc.

1. The leadership is important but they give direction, they are not the final product.
2. The product should be focused on the people.
3. Emphasis on leadership, organization, and meetings is backwards.
4. The question is “What do we call success?”
 - a. Do you want people to attend many meetings?
 - b. Do you want to them to give much money?
 - c. The most important part of an ox cart is the blueprint, not the wheel.
 - d. If we lose the blueprint of church we produce something less than the ideal.

B. What are we trying to produce at church?

1. Do we want emotional frenzy in our services?
2. Do we want numbers?
 - a. Anytime we say we have many people we should also ask what kind of people.
 - b. Anything times zero is zero.
3. Do we want just teaching in church so people know a lot in their heads?

4. Do we want people who give a lot of money?

5. Plato said “Culture cultivates what it honors.”

a. We will cultivate what we honor.

b. That can be good or bad.

C. What kind of church produces the kind of people we want?

1. The New Testament has a loose organizational structure.

2. What kind of pastor and leaders will produce the people we want?

3. Three questions?

a. What are we calling success?

b. How can we produce the structure that will give success?

c. Who will produce the “how” that will result in the “what” we are calling success?

IV. We want three things in a New Testament church.

A. We want to produce people that with a sense of **commitment**.

1. Commitment to God in loving service.

2. Commitment to God’s Word daily: knowing God apart from the Bible is mysticism.

3. Committed to God’s people in genuine relationships.

4. Committed to God’s cause, not mere wealth.

a. Jesus lived for the glory of God.

b. Jesus lived for the souls of men.

B. In order to be committed people need to be **competent**.

1. They need a knowledge of God and His Word and of the Holy Spirit.

2. They need a knowledge of how to handle money.

3. They need a knowledge of Christ and the purpose of the church

4. How to handle anger, fear, depression, etc.

5. They need a love of God and a hatred of sin.

6. They need to be able to share their testimony and the Gospel.

7. They should be able to disciple other new believers.

C. Disciples also need to be **creative**.

1. They need to be able to bring up the Gospel in their workplaces.
2. They need to be able to function outside of their church buildings.
3. They need to be able to serve in various levels in the church ministry.

V. How do we produce this kind of person with commitment, competence, and creativity?

A. We need four things to foster this obedient, faithful, fruitful person.

1. Teach them truth, and this means more than haranguing about sin.
2. Give them opportunity to lead and serve in various ministries.
 - a. This is what the military does.
 - b. This is what business does.
 - c. Move from the mind to the will.
 - d. This will reveal the ones dominated by sin and those dominated by the Holy Spirit.
 - e. Get people in small groups that tackle projects.
 - 1) Bible memory projects.
 - 2) Service projects.
 - 3) Evangelism projects.
 - 4) Projects that require people to rely on the Holy Spirit.
 - 5) When the Holy Spirit empowers people they learn excellence.
3. Trust people to succeed or to fail.
 - a. Pastors tend to be controlling.
 - b. Pastors need to get involved only if someone is failing.
 - c. Pastors need to rethink their organizational structure, eliminating Wednesday night services if that hinders getting an effective discipleship ministry in your church.
4. Form must adapt to function, not the other way around.

B. Sometimes the leadership hinders the ministry from producing true disciples.

1. Leaders need integrity.
2. Leaders need social skills so they can get along with others.
3. Leaders must be orthodox in beliefs.
4. Leaders must be able to teach.
5. Leaders must have followers; they are not leaders because they get voted into an office.
 - a. There are received leaders and perceived leaders.
 - b. Leaders must be genuine leaders.
6. Leaders must be courageous, willing to take risks.
7. Leaders must be able to delegate responsibility to others.

C. Some people hear this message and refuse to respond.

1. They will show up on Sunday for a lecture and we'll teach their kids and marry and bury them.
 - a. God loves them.
 - b. But we cannot help them.
2. If leaders allow the non-responders to dominate those who want to learn what it means to be a disciple the church will die.

D. Many pastors do not get discipleship ministries going in their churches for several reasons.

1. Pastors move forward by the growth of the body in numbers.
2. Success is not measured by bodies, buildings, and budgets, but by growing disciples.
3. Pastors seek promotion, however, by these three "Bs."
4. Real success in ministry is pleasing God, whether or not a pastor's ministry is large or small.
 - a. Giving God glory is the one genuine compassion of ministries.
 - b. If you are interested in becoming a growing disciple get involved.