Equipping the “Saints”

Discipler Training International
Equipping the “Saints”

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County Line Baptist Church
Crystal Springs, MS
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We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. I labor for this, striving with His strength that works powerfully in me.

Colossians 1:28-29
Our Purpose for the Workshop

- Is there spiritual weakness in the Body of Christ?
  - Why?
  - Discuss some reasons
- Present solutions to the problem of spiritual weakness in the Body to reverse the trend.
“The system you have in place is perfectly designed for the results you are getting”.

Diagram showing a leader and followers.
What is the typical Church MODEL for healthy spiritual growth?
CORPORATE DISCIPLESHIP

(Needed, but typically insufficient by itself to produce the desired results)

- BIBLE STUDY
- PREACHING
- SEMINARS & TRAINING
- SMALL GROUPS

Teaching God’s Word
Each local assembly of believers should seek to practice

**Balanced Discipleship**

**(BOTH Personal & Corporate) discipleship are needed for healthy spiritual growth)**
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**PERSONAL DISCIPLESSHIP**
(Vitally needed, but frequently neglected)

- **COMMITMENT**
- **MODELING**
- **INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION**

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Teaching God’s Word

Commitment
Modeling
Individual Attention
To know the Bible is good, but to intimately know and understand the One who the Bible reveals is better!
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Teaching God’s Word
Commitment

A goal of the discipler should be to help the disciple to mature, function, be fruitful, and to spiritually reproduce.

The benefits to the discipler are secondary.
A Disciple of Jesus is more than just a student, he’s an apprentice

What’s the difference?

- **Student**
  - wants to know what the teacher knows

- **Disciple**
  - wants to be like the teacher
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Teaching God’s Word
Modeling

• We want the disciple to end up with the passion of the discipler.

• Modeling goes beyond just teaching.
  o How do you teach patience, or faithfulness, or passion?
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PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

(Vitally needed, but frequently neglected)

- Teaching God’s Word
- Commitment
- Modeling
- Individual Attention

Balanced Discipleship

(Both Personal & Corporate discipleship are needed for healthy spiritual growth)
Individual Attention

The discipler should be prayerfully available to the Holy Spirit, to address the particular needs of the disciple.
What is a Disciple of Jesus Christ?
Each local assembly of believers should seek to practice Balanced Discipleship (BOTH Personal & Corporate discipleship are needed for healthy spiritual growth)

**PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP**
(Vitally needed, but frequently neglected)

**CORPORATE DISCIPLESHIP**
(Needed, but typically insufficient by itself to produce the desired results)

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- **MODELING**
- **INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION**
- **BIBLE STUDY**
- **PREACHING**
- **SEMINARS & TRAINING**
- **SMALL GROUPS**
To help a believer through the transition from the habit of daily living in “self-dependence” to the habit of daily living in “God-dependence.”
A newborn child requires an extra amount of individual attention. As the child matures guidance can increasingly take place in a group setting. Since each child is unique, it should be expected that both group and personal attention would be needed on the road to maturity.
When you bring a newborn baby home from the hospital, you don't just set them down and say, "Welcome to the family, Johnny. Make yourself at home. The towels are in the hall closet upstairs, the pantry is right here, the can opener is in this drawer. No crying after 10 p.m. If you have any questions there are lots of people in the family who would love to help you so don't be afraid to ask."
You laugh and say that is ridiculous, but that is what usually happens to new Christians. Someone gets saved and starts going to church services, but never gets much personal attention. We devote 18 years to raising our children, but don't even spend six months helping a new Christian get started in understanding the spiritual world. As a result, many people have been Christians for many years, but have not grown very much.
So, new believers need someone to give them guidance and help them grow.
“A Biblical Model for Spiritual Parenting” (Discipleship)

1 Thessalonians 2:3-13 includes all the components of spiritual parenting.
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1. THEY WERE SINGLE-MINDED IN PURPOSE
   :3-6 … so we speak, not to please men, but rather God, who examines our hearts. For we never used flattering speech, as you know, or had greedy motives—God is our witness—and we didn’t seek glory from people, either from you or from others. Although we could have been a burden as Christ’s apostles

2. THEY CARED FOR THE BELIEVERS AS A MOTHER CARES FOR HER CHILDREN
   :7-8 … instead we were gentle among you, as a nursing MOTHER nurtures her own children. We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

3. THEY BECAME “ROLE MODELS” TO THE NEW BELIEVERS
   :9-10 For you remember our labor and hardship, brothers. Working night and day so that we would not burden any of you, we preached God’s gospel to you. You are witnesses, and so is God, of how devoutly, righteously, and blamelessly we conducted ourselves with you believers.
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Paul’s concern for the believers went **beyond** that of just a “teacher.”

**He was committed to their spiritual welfare and growth.**

2 Cor. 11:28-29 … there is the **daily pressure** on me of concern for all the churches. Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my **intense concern**?

2 Cor. 2:4  For out of much affliction and **anguish of heart** I wrote to you **with many tears**; … that you might know **the love which I have especially for you**.

2 Cor. 12:15  I will most gladly **spend** and **be expended** for your souls.…

Col. 1:28-29 … that we may present **every man complete** (mature) in Christ. **For this purpose also I labor**, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

2 Tim. 2:10  … **I endure all things** for the sake of those who are chosen, …
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A discipler is a “model” (real, transparent) for the disciple. The goal is for the disciple to emulate the convictions and passion of the discipler.

1 Cor. 4:15-16 (*Paul to the Corinthian believers*) For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me.

Phil. 3:17 (*Paul to the Philippians*) Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

Phil. 4:9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

2 Thess. 3:7-9 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, … in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example.

1 Tim. 4:12 (*Paul to Timothy*) in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

2 Tim. 3:10-11 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, persecutions, and sufferings,…
4. THEY GAVE INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION AND INSTRUCTION AS A FATHER

:11-12 As you know, like a FATHER with his own children, we encouraged, comforted, and implored EACH one of you to walk worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

5. THE WORD OF GOD WAS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF DISCIPLESHIP

:13 This is why we constantly thank God, because when you received the message about God that you heard from us, you welcomed it not as a human message, but as it truly is, the message of God, which also works effectively in you believers.
1 Thessalonians 2:3-13 includes all the components of spiritual parenting.

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<thead>
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Biblical truth is an **essential** component of Biblical discipleship.

1 Cor. 8:1-2  … Knowledge *makes arrogant*, but love edifies. If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know;

Eph. 4:11-16  … for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the **knowledge of the Son of God**, to a **mature** man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are **no longer to be children**, …

Col. 1:28-29  We proclaim Him, *admonishing* every man and *teaching* every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man **complete (mature)** in Christ.

1 Thess. 2:13  For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the **word of God**, which also **performs its work in you** who believe.
God had these things written to help us understand that discipling a new believer has to do with a relationship between a person that’s going to act like a father and a mother (spiritual parent) and a child.

God pictures the new believer as a spiritual baby that needs **individual attention**.
Typical Modern Church Congregation
Typical Modern Church Congregation

Leaders

Followers
**Leaders** typically are perceived to be “trained”, but don’t feel they have the necessary **time** to devote to individuals.

**Followers** usually have more **time**, but don’t feel they are adequately **trained** to meet the needs of new believers.
And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, **for the training** of the saints in the **work of ministry**, to build up the body of Christ, until we **all** reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into a **mature** man with a stature measured by Christ’s fullness.

…But speaking the truth in love, let us **grow** in every way into Him who is the head—Christ. From Him the whole body, fitted and knit together by **every** supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of **each individual** part.  

(Ephesians 4:11-16)
Typical Discipled And Undiscipled Believers

Before Christ

Child

Child

Birth

Child

E

D

GOD

me

Physical Death

Judgment of believers for rewards, or loss of rewards!

God

ME

Birth
Typical Discipled And Undisciplined Believers

TYPICAL “DISCIPLED” BELIEVER

- Increasing dependence on God (Masterservant)
- Increasing God-reliance (Faith walk)
- Focus on inward transformation (producing Godly behavior)
- “It’s about God!” (“dog attitude”)

TYPICAL “UNDISCIPLINED” BELIEVER

- God is my “Junior” Partner (up to 49% control)
- God is my “Co-pilot” (God is on standby)
- Focus on behavior modification
- Self-dependent
- “It’s about me!” (“cat attitude”)

Before Christ

Child

Birth

Physical Death

Judgment of believers for rewards, or loss of rewards!
And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (2 Tim 2:2)

Four Generations of disciples

1. Paul
2. Timothy
3. Faithful Men
4. Others
## Potential Church Growth through Spiritual Multiplication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of “CONVERTS” (1 converted each day)</th>
<th>Number of “DISCIPLES” (1 discipled each 6 months)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>183</td>
<td>½ year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>365</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>730</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,095</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,460</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,190</td>
<td>6 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,920</td>
<td>8 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,650</td>
<td>10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,380</td>
<td>12 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To start: 1
1 year: 4
2 years: 16
3 years: 64
4 years: 256
6 years: 4,096
8 years: 65,536
10 years: 1,048,576
12 years: 16,777,216
One-on-One Discipling
• The Great Commission – “Go and make Disciples”
  • Matt 28:18-20

• Paul setting the Goal
  • Colossians 1:28-29

• Holy Spirit (through Scripture) depicting the new believer as a Spiritual Baby

• Paul depicting himself (discipler) as a Spiritual Mother and Father
  • 1 Thess. 2:3-13
• The job of the Pastor / Teacher is to EQUIP the Saints
  • Ephesians 4:11-16

• Growth through Multiplication not Addition
  GOAL = 4 Generations
  • 2 Timothy 2:2

• A Plan…. 
Some Options to Get Started ....

PRAY....

1. Review “Phase 2” of the manual (the “how to”) and begin a 1:1 relationship (with Phase I)

2. Bring together a group of faithful men and women to walk through the material together to equip them for discipling others

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit
Implementation of Discipleship Multiplication Plan

Discipleship Ministry Roles

1. Pastor or leader at the DTI conference -- YOU
2. Mature Believer needing training to be a Discipler
3. New Believer needing to be discipled and being trained to be a Discipler
4. Immature Believer needing to be discipled (to fill in gaps in understanding), while being trained to be a Discipler
5. Discipler, trained and equipped to disciple
So, naturally, we proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about him, so that, if possible, we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ. This is what I am working at all the time, with all the strength that God gives me.
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