

Equipping the Saints

John Crawford

I. Introduction.

A. Principles for equipping. God has made every Christian an ambassador. (2 Corinthians 5:19-21, Matthew 28:19-20)

B. What God tells us to observe: repentance.

II. Basic principles.

A. Love. (Matthew 22:37-40)

1. The key to keeping the commandments is to love others as you would love yourself.
2. Love fulfills the law. (Romans 13:8)
3. Love is sometimes tough.
4. Those who are in the light, love. (1 John 2:10, James 2:8, Matthew 7:12)

B. Guidelines in making choices.

1. We should go by what the Bible teaches not what is isolated.
2. Not all that is in the Bible should be practiced for there are even quotes from the Devil in the Bible.
3. Doctrine is what is taught consistently throughout the Scripture.
4. We are to enter by the straight gate. (Matthew 7)
5. God has a plan for you as an individual. (Psalm 139)

C. Self-discipline. (1 Corinthians 9:27)

1. Our bodies get us into trouble. (1 Peter 4:2)
2. God wants to make us into sharp instruments. (Isaiah 45:15)
3. Prayer needs to be practiced daily. Scripture needs to be reviewed in community with accountability.

D. Death to self. (Luke 9:23)

1. We do not deny ourselves things, but we deny ourselves.
2. The one who loses his life plants a seed of life. (John 12:24-25)

III. God will fulfill all of His promises to you. (Philippians 4:19)

Application questions

1. How are we to go about making choices in preparation for God's service?

2. Why is love such an important principle in ministry?

3. In what areas of your Christian life could you use greater self-discipline? How can you go about achieving this?
