

The Dynamics of Discipleship

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Part 4

I. In our series thus far we have sought answered two crucial questions:

A. What is a disciple?

1. He is a learner.
2. He is a follower
3. He is a reproducer
4. What he is, determines what he does.

B. What is our Biblical authority to build disciples?

1. Making disciples is not an option - it is essential.
 - a) Our Lord commanded His disciples to make disciples. (Matthew 28:16-20)
 - b) The Apostle Paul commanded Timothy to make disciples. (2 Timothy 2)
2. We have a Biblical mandate and we also have Biblical model.
 - a) Your disciples will do what you do.
 - b) The Biblical model is to experience the pattern before learning the process.

II. New Testament model for making disciples.

A. New Testament discipleship flourishes in the midst of a hostile environment. (Acts 8-9)

1. The church learning the law of spiritual thermodynamics; the greater the heat the greater the expansion.
2. Saul loved God, but hated Jesus and thought he was doing God a favor.
3. After his conversion, Saul came to Jerusalem to join with the Apostles, but couldn't.
4. Humanly speaking Barnabas is the only reason Saul ever got into the church.
5. The early days in a person's life physically and spiritually are very determinative.
 - a) Follow up is not nice - it is a necessity.
6. Barnabas brought Saul to Antioch so that they could disciple the believers and so that

Barnabas could train Saul to replace him. (Acts 11:19)

- a) Travel with people to disciple them; more is caught than taught.
- b) What is the point of going around town if you don't take someone with you?

7. What are you doing to prepare your disciples to suffer? (Acts 14:19)

- a) It is very possible that there will come a day here in America where we will pay a price for our identification with Christ.
- b) The Christian life does not depend on environment - it depends on relationship with Jesus Christ.

8. Problems will always be a part of the Christian Life. (Acts 15:35)

- a) Barnabas wanted to take John Mark, Paul did not (Acts 13:13)
- b) Barnabas and Paul had a strong argument and parted ways.
- c) When Paul was about to die, he asked Timothy to bring John Mark because Barnabas picked him up and gave him a second chance.

1) God always uses imperfect instruments.

9. Paul finds Aquilla and Pricilla and hooks up with them. (Acts 18)

- a) Couples should be discipling other couples.
- b) They got together because they were of the same trade.
- c) Did it ever occur to you why God gave you that trade or put you in that neighborhood?
- d) Paul brought them to Ephesus and then left them there to minister.
- e) Aquilla and Pricilla began to disciple Apollos following Paul's example.

III. Who are the People that God used to build into my life?

A. God will use many individuals to build into a life of a believer.

- 1. God used my mother, who couldn't pass an elementary theology test.
- 2. God used my father, who was not a Christian.
- 3. God used my professors.
- 4. God used my Sunday school teacher, Walt.