

Disciple Building

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Luke 14.

B. The reason for high requisites in discipleship is because Jesus is building and the cost is great. Salt is good, but if it has lost its bite it is useless. Flavor in our life is the result of discipleship.

C. Christ is the warrior King come to do battle, and discipleship is the means by which He will accomplish His task.

D. The objective of the Christian ministry is to do battle by winning the lost and by building the saints. Unless we are engaged in building and battle, we are off the primary objective. (Colossians 1:28, Nehemiah 4:17-18)

II. Benefits of these principles.

A. It helps to differentiate between activities and results.

B. It helps to differentiate between primary and secondary ministries.

1. "He who can does; he who cannot teaches." (George Bernard Shaw)

2. You need to do, and not just teach. Doing qualifies for teaching.

C. It helps to know the responsibility is not simply to be behind the scenes coordinating but to personally lead out in the ministry of building in battle.

D. It helps to know one should reorganize, so paper work takes less time and engage more in the battle.

III. Disciple building.

A. Christ is building a place to dwell. He is building lives where God can dwell. (Ephesians 2:20-22)

B. God is at work around the world building His church today.

C. There is room in the ministry for people of a variety of kinds of gifts.

1. One cannot simply repeat things that are peculiar to a special person, so he should not compare himself to others.

2. A ministry also should not be seen as the ideal, but as a unique part of the whole with a unique purpose.

D. The kind of building.

1. It should be built on Christ and nothing else. (Ephesians 2:20)

a. The only true fellowship is in Christ Himself because He is our peace.

b. A ministry could be in danger of not having Christ at the center.

c. A ministry should teach how to get in the Bible and Christ especially as the center.

d. The personal life must be built upon the Person of Christ. One either loves Christ's appearing or the world. (2 Timothy 4:8-10)

e. Effective witnessing is grounded on what one has seen and heard in Christ. (Acts 22:14-15)

2. It should be holy. (1 Corinthians 6:16)

a. If a true revival comes, one of the first evidences will be a true sense of the holiness of God.

b. He that has "clean hands" will become stronger and stronger. (Job 17:9)

c. To be holy means to be set apart for God—separated from the world, but not isolated. It also means to be clean and undefiled. (2 Corinthians 7:1)

d. Samson is an example of ungodliness—he never dealt with his sin. Lives have been broken because sins were not dealt with in the flesh.

e. We ought to lay aside all evil—even envy (chagrin at the good fortune of another) and hypocrisy (acting to feel or behave as one is not). (1 Peter 2:1)

f. We are to avoid the vice of the virtuous—sulking. This leads to bitterness. (Luke 15)

3. It should be able to stand the test of fire. (1 Corinthians 3)

4. It should be Christ-like. (1 Peter 2:9)

5. It should be on the offensive as one. (Matthew 16:18, Ephesians 2)

Application questions.

1. How and why is disciple building compared to building a house?

2. What is the composition of the house? What should be its characteristics? Explain.

3. When you are “building up” men and women in their faith, how would you apply these building principles? Pick two and explain how you could work out that principle in your work with others.
