

Man-to-Man

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I. Introduction.

- A. They were dealt with one-by-one. (1 Thessalonians 2:11)
- B. Paul's life: his greatest obsession, his greatest discovery and his greatest success.
 - 1. During his greatest discovery Paul dealt with great spiritual adversity in Thessalonica. (Acts 17:13)
 - 2. These were the people that Paul dealt with one to one. They became a model for the whole church.
 - 3. There are great differences in dealing with children, so too the Thessalonians were dealt with individually.
- C. In the Lord's ministry to the multitude, Jesus gave Himself to the ministry of the Twelve.

II. The mission to build up Christians to maturity. (John 17)

- A. The work that Jesus finished before the cross was to take the men God gave Him, to give them the Word, and to send those men out.
 - 1. What followed: the gospel was proclaimed to the whole world. (Colossians 1:6, 23; Acts 19:10)
 - 2. The Twelve were in a training program with Christ that was full time - this was not a class and was not merely the acquirement of knowledge.
- B. The goal of training is to reproduce knowledge, skill and character, which is Christ being formed in a person. (Galatians 4:19)
- C. You can determine the importance of a task by the amount of attention that goes into training someone for the task.
- D. Discipleship begins with one-on-one development - it is not about a book.
- E. Man-to-man is God's provision for nurturing new Christians - everyone can minister one to one, but few have platform skills.
- F. Man-to-man is not primarily for fellowship nor problem-centered counseling, but it is a training that imparts one's heart to another like Christ did to the Twelve.
- G. The goal is to change the man-to-man relationship to a men-to-men group. This brings more balanced input.
- H. Man-to-man is key to developing godly men.

III. Discussion.

A. The disciples of the speaker.

B. The biggest hindrance in man-to-man.

1. The closer we get to a person, the more our lives are under observation.
2. The men begin to see that we are not always doing things that we suggest they do.

C. How early do you introduce the idea of reproduction to the man?

1. Trotman always immediately asked, "Where's your man?"
2. You should always be on the look-out.
3. You cannot invent chemistry, but there are plenty of people around who have questions and just want to know about the Christian life.

D. What do you do when the man does not reproduce?

1. It is always good to have about half a dozen people on a string because you cannot predict the successes.
2. People stop growing because of their hearts, and that is something one cannot do a lot about. Many times the least likely become successful. (Luke 12:15)

E. It is not your job to teach all new converts but to see that they are being taught. You select the first one by whichever one will be ready to help you with the rest soonest.

Application questions.

1. What are some of the benefits of man-to-man ministry?

2. Do you foresee any other challenges to this type of reproduction that were not listed? How did the speaker address any of your own concerns through the discussion section?

3. "Where's your man?" What steps have you taken to invest in another believer's life? What are you doing to encourage their own personal development?
