

# **DISCIPLESHIP 13: MAKING DISCIPLES**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In creating you, God made a masterpiece. So, as you manifest who you are in Him, You will automatically witness to the existence of God and His intelligent and intentional design.

<sup>20</sup> For ever since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through His workmanship [all His creation, the wonderful things that He has made], so that they [who fail to believe and trust in Him] are without excuse and without defence. Rom 1:20

<sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, ready to be used] for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us]. Eph 2:10

## THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF DISCIPLESHIP MAKING

I strongly believe that the primary root issue to deal with regarding the making of Disciples is the matter of IDENTITY (Who am I?). Once this is addressed and grasped by the follower of Christ, the other issues of Obedience and effectiveness fall in line.

### So, the question who or what are You as a Christian?

<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power and ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses [to tell people about Me] both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

First of all you are a WITNESS of Christ. This not something that you are trying to be. It is WHO YOU ARE! Your life is to point to Christ period! The pinnacle or objective and sum total of your existence is to glorify God and His Christ.

The objective of your life is NOT to be successful and have a good life. Its not to rise to the top of your career and make it in the world. If you don't get this point, you are of no use to the Kingdom period.

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<sup>13</sup> "You are the asalt of the earth; but if the salt has alost its taste (purpose), how can it be made salty? It is no longer good for anything, but to be thrown out and walked on by people [when the walkways are wet and slippery].

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of [Christ to] the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; <sup>15</sup> nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good deeds *and* moral excellence, and [recognize and honor and] glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:13-16

If you are not living out your Life with this identity and focus, you may be a child of God, but you are not living out the purpose of your existence as a Believer. This is sound doctrine and NOT condemnation.

# SALT & LIGHT

The word WITNESS is the Greek word *martyrs*, which means a legal testifier to what they have seen and know. It also means those who after His example have proved the strength and genuineness of their faith in Christ by undergoing a violent death!

We need to reclaim the WITNESS spirit of the early church in this generation. This doctrine is NOT popular in the church today, but it is fundamental and biblical in its entirety.

So, your identity and who you are as a Believer is that you are a WITNESS, LIGHT OF THE WORLD AND SALT OF THE EARTH. This not what you DO but who you ARE.

Many times, the church teaches that we should do witnessing. This is confusing and it is like asking someone to do Jamaican or do Black. You are who you are and then your actions stem out of your identity.

YOU ARE A WITNESS, at Work, Home, in your neighbourhood and wherever your circle of existence lies. Stop trying to DO Evangelism, witnessing or any other type of activity or program to reach people for Christ.

Be a Witness, shine your Light and be Salt wherever you are, and you will be effective and fruitful.



There is a big difference between being nice, courteous and hospitable with your neighbours and dropping off a gospel leaflet during Easter because your Church asked you to reach out.

There is a big difference between being relational, punctual, dedicated and efficient at work and that of preaching against homosexuality without any 'credit' within your work relationships. Grace without Truth and Truth without Grace are both lopsided

### ARITHMETICS

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. <sup>3</sup> You therefore must endure<sup>[a]</sup> hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 2 Tim2:1-3

#### By Chris Adsit

Consider the apostle Paul's strategic mission statement in 2 Timothy 2:2. He didn't limit himself to developing a doctrinally sound, well-trained Timothy.

Instead, Paul was looking 2 generations *beyond* his young disciple: "The things which *you* [second generation] have heard from *me* [first generation] in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to *faithful men* [third generation] who will be able to teach *others* also [fourth generation]."

Let's have a race. But we won't match athletes or cars; we'll match strategies. The finish line for our race? Winning all 6 billion people in the world to Jesus Christ.

One competitor will be "Reach the World by Addition." With this strategy, we will equip a church to add 1,000 people to heaven's roll every year. No, wait -- let's think big: Let's equip 10,000 churches to accomplish this supernatural goal every year.

Our other competitor will be...one guy. Meet Joe Multiplier, one lone fellow who decides to lead one person to Christ every year, disciple the new believer and train him how to do the same with someone else. By teaching others to become teachers, Joe will multiply himself.

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You might be thinking, "No contest! Poor Joe is going to get smoked!" Well, do the math. The addition strategy, as impressive as it looks on the surface, will take 600 years to reach the world, and that's assuming a zero population-growth rate.

But since statistics suggest that we're currently adding 135 million to the world's population each year, the followers of the addition strategy will actually never reach the finish line.

Joe's strategy, on the other hand, will surpass it. Surely, he starts slow: After one year, there are only 2 disciples. At the end of the second year, 4. Third year, there are 8 followers of Jesus. Fourth year, 16. However, by year 33, you will have more than 8.5 billion Christians.

Worried about the population explosion? No problem -- we'll be at 34 billion Christians just 2 years later. Can you see the powerful potential of a ministry of multiplication, compared to one of addition?

Think about what we're producing with the first strategy above. When we're busy cranking out 1,000 converts a year in a church, we don't have much time, energy or people to pay attention to their spiritual growth.

But Joe Multiplier, and those he has led to Christ and mentored, will spend quality time with each and every "baby" to make sure they are firmly grounded in their faith and able to pass it on to others. Each one becomes a new fountainhead of growth and reproduction.

Yes, this takes time, but quality always does.

In the 21st century, we demand production, numbers and results now. We are the microwave generation. But we must realize that the Eternal One still prefers the Crock-Pot.

His ways are always the best; He has eternity in mind. *So, how do I begin a ministry of spiritual multiplication?* 

### • Pray

Never forget that God is infinitely more concerned with growth and reproduction than you could ever be. He causes and directs the growth, and generates spiritual transformation. And the most amazing thing of all is that He invites you to join in partnership with Him. So ask God what to do, who to begin investing your time in and

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how to start. As you begin working with someone, pray every day for love, discernment and direction.

• Read

The DNA of spiritual multiplication is disciplemaking. There are many great books that will inspire and inform you regarding how to engage in this vital, one-to-one or small-group ministry. For example, Robert Coleman's <u>The Master Plan of Evangelism</u>, Bill Bright's <u>How You Can Help Fulfill the Great Commission</u> and my own <u>Personal</u> <u>Disciplemaking</u> have proven helpful to many people.

### • Find a "Barnabas"

Paul built into Timothy's life, but for many years Barnabas built into Paul's. There is no better way to learn how to be a spiritual multiplier than to be on the receiving end of a multiplier's ministry. Find a more mature man or woman who would be willing and able to <u>mentor</u> you.

### • Have a plan

What will you do with your disciples? Teach them to study the Bible and apply it to their lives, but interact with all areas of their lives. Start out with a good, foundational Bible study.

### • Talk about it -- a lot

Don't let the disciple forget that he is not meant to be a dead end, but a freeway. God wants to travel to many others through him and help them grow to maturity. That's not the model of teaching we are used to, so you will need to frequently remind him of the pass-along principle.

God's ministry method down through the ages has always been for us to work with the few to reach the many: "The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation" (Isaiah 60:22, New International Version). God wants to multiply His life a thousand-fold, and He wants to do it through you.

# HOMEWORK

Find a Timothy and start sharing everything you have learnt in the school of ministry with them over this end of year season into the new year.