

**Xenos Christian Fellowship
Christian Leadership 1--Ecclesiology
Week 6 - Discipleship in the Church**

Introduction

Discipleship in the church

The biblical case for discipleship

Jesus' example: Mark 3:13-15

Jesus' command: Matthew 28:19-20

Paul's example: Col. 1:28,29; 1 Tim. 1:2 & 2 Tim 1:2; Titus 1:4

Paul's command: 2 Timothy 2:2

Why is this so important?

QUALIFICATION:

Why don't people/churches practice biblical discipleship?

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Discipleship in Xenos - Col. 1:28, 29

"A discipler is one who helps willing people attain Servant Team status by both ministering in a general way in the church, and by holding specific meetings for study, coaching, counseling, and prayer (in the context of a close personal relationship)."

"helps willing people attain Servant Team status"

Qualifications:

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"by both ministering in a general way in the church"

"and by holding specific meetings for study, coaching, counseling, and prayer"

"all in the context of a close personal relationship"

Taking initiative

- Individuals

- Leaders

Practical Advice on Discipling Others (3 Areas)

1. Shepherding vs. Discipling - Shepherding and discipling differ in three key areas:

- Shepherding emphasizes the other person's own spiritual growth.

Discipleship includes shepherding, however, emphasizes *ministry to others*.

- Shepherding is *unconditional*

Discipleship, however, is *conditional*.

- Shepherding is normally *sporadic and ongoing*.

Discipleship, however, is normally *consistent and for a period of time*.

Why is shepherding so important?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

2. Selection

Without being perfectionistic, prayerfully consider the following questions:

- *Do they evidence ongoing interest in the word? John 8:31,32*
- *Are they honest about what is really going on in their life? Luke 8:15*
- *Do they ask spiritual questions and respond to good answers?*
- *When they are challenged to serve, how do they respond?*
- *Do they respond properly to God's discipline (through others and directly from God)?*
- *Do they take challenging steps of faith?*
- *Do they have/make the time to commit to the group? 2 Tim. 2:4*

3. Discipleship Time

Getting Started

- Clearly explain your purpose
- Spell out the commitments involved

- Explain the four areas you'll be working on together:

STUDY	COUNSEL
COACH	PRAY

Developing – intentionally develop each of these areas, but adjust the time spent to take advantage of special opportunities and issues

- Prepare

- Always pray!

- Establish a default study plan

- Counsel and coach as needed

STUDY – developing a biblical mindset (2Tim.2:15)

Variables affecting what you study:

Examples:

- Daily Bible reading plan
- Read and discuss your way through a biblical book
- Overview whole biblical books
- Read and discuss solid Christian books
- Review class material, or take a class together and discuss it afterward

Don't forget to recommend tapes, books, papers, etc. for private reading

COUNSEL – developing godly character (1Tim.4:12,16; 2Tim.2:20-22)

Goals

- Walking in the light
- Freedom from bondage to debilitating sin habits
- Identification of “besetting sins” and a strategy for addressing them
- Relational health with friends, dating, marriage, children, etc...
- Able to draw encouragement from God during trials

Guidelines

- Model honesty!
- Keep the focus on becoming a more effective worker, not merely personal healing
- Resistance without replacement is futile
- Model God’s grace and patience, but challenge and confront when needed
- Confer and refer

MINISTRY COACHING – developing a personal ministry (1 Timothy 5)

Key Areas to Develop

Guidelines

- Discuss current ministry goals and attempts
- Provide feedback whenever possible
- Take them with you whenever possible
- Help them to identify their gifts and deploy them
- Stress ministry “principles” as well as specific advice
- Teach them how to handle ministry failure and success

PRAYER – developing the ability to pray with others and according to God’s priorities

- At the beginning
- At the end
- Spontaneously

Other points:

- Be careful not to just focus on what you are best at – develop in all 4 areas
- Gradually shift emphasis as worker develops
- Be willing to move back to shepherding for chronic unwillingness
- Don’t stop as worker begins to disciple – continue until others are flourishing under their discipleship

Errors to avoid

"I've got to get a disciple right now."

"I am totally responsible for the growth of my disciples."

"Stay away from my disciple."

"I've got to be able to raise up leaders as effectively as so-and-so."

"I've got to disciple others in exactly the same way so-and-so does." OR "People I disciple need to turn out to be just like me."

"I can't be effective because I was never disciplined one-on-one by a mature worker."

"Everyone in our home group should have one-on-one discipleship time if they want it."

"I'm not a leader/gifted at/mature enough to disciple, so I needn't be involved in it."

"If our people are going to classes and serving in ministry team roles, that's all they need."

"No one is interested in being disciplined."

Conclusion: The benefits of doing discipleship

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3 John 1:4; 1 Thess. 2:19,20.

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Memory Verses

2 Timothy 2:2*

Assignment

Read Chapters 6 and 8 on the biblical pictures of the church as God's army and family from *Members of One Another*. Summarize the points illustrated by each picture in a paragraph.

Write a one-page summary describing your present efforts in discipling someone or someone's efforts toward you. What is the most difficult part of discipleship for you and what steps can you take to overcome this difficulty?

Study for Exam

Key Points to Know for Exam

1. Be able to distinguish between discipling and shepherding
2. Argue the biblical case for discipleship as discussed in week 6.
3. Discuss the dangers of possessive discipleship and the value of cooperative discipleship.