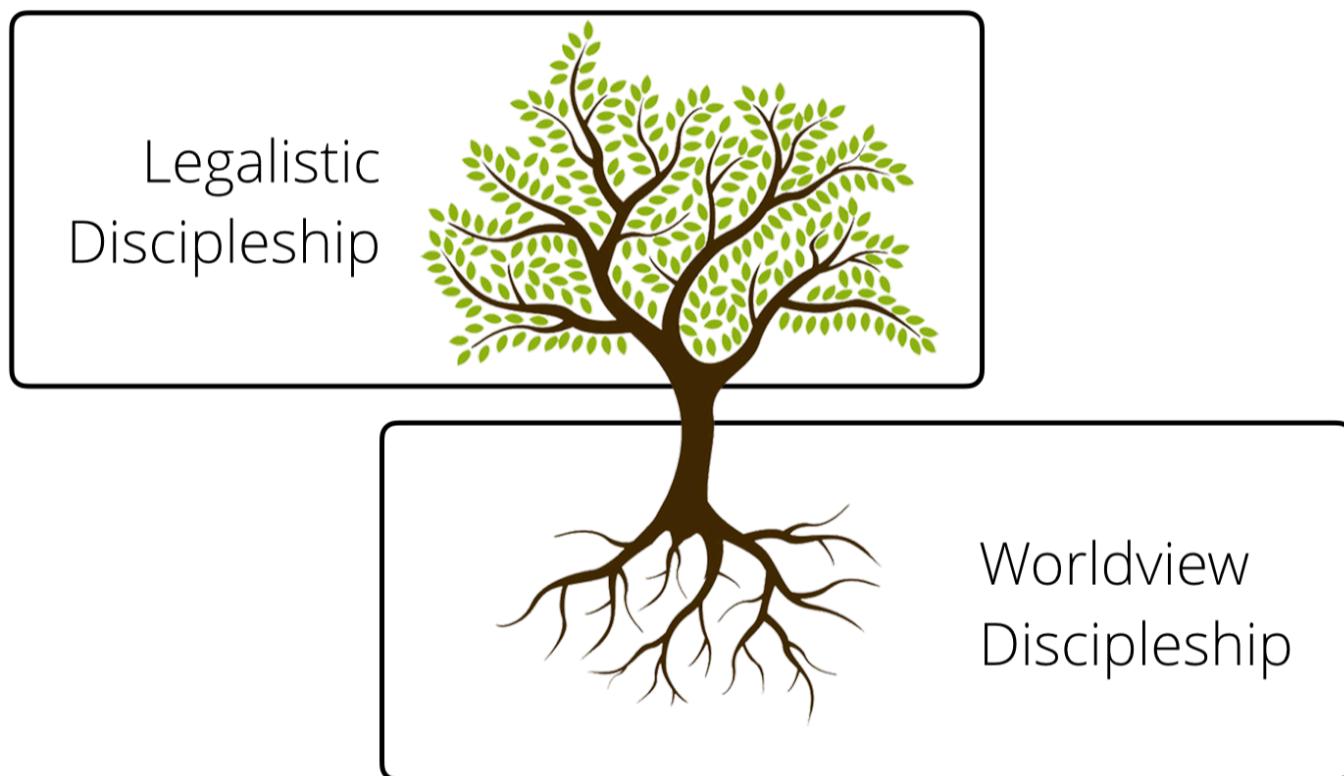


Exchanging Worldviews

As a general principle, Jesus demonstrated a lifestyle of investing in the worldview of the individual. In practical terms, this means that Jesus always chose to invest his efforts in transforming the foundational belief systems of the individual rather than conforming his/her outward behavior to a certain standard. This is best pictured in the illustration of a farmer. Rather than merely focus on cleaning the fruit of a tree, a good farmer always invests his efforts in the root system of the tree. The farmer believes that good roots always leads to good fruit. This is the same for healthy personal discipleship. We call this form of discipleship, “Worldview Discipleship”.

In contrast to this, we have the paradigm that many choose; one of “fruit working” that focuses exclusively on outward conformity to certain approved behaviors. The problem with this approach is that it actually is a discipleship paradigm that is man centered; one that we call “Legalistic Discipleship” because it forces the individual to pursue external change by their own strength and not by the inward transformation of Christ.



Another key observation of the life of Jesus is the intentionality with which He engaged people. Jesus was always consistent with His approach into people's lives, always meeting them where they were at spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

When we say that Jesus "met people where they were at," we are referring to two specific things. The first is the pattern of Jesus in discerning the spiritual maturity of the individual. Whether it was the woman at the well, or the unique interactions He had with Peter from his call to final commission, we see Jesus invest in people in the most contextually appropriate way.

Realizing this mindset of Jesus is key to our growth in discipleship as well. Although the principle would lead us to conclude that there are infinite "places in life" or levels of spiritual maturity, it is helpful to at least generalize this concept into four main levels of spiritual maturity: the unbeliever, the new believer, the growing believer, and the multiplying believer.

We also recognize that the method of Jesus in applying the truth to a person's life. Jesus always demonstrated a faithful blend of two key actions as he brought truth into people's lives: deconstructing the natural worldview and reconstructing the Biblical worldview. It wasn't enough for Jesus to just present new truth, he made a point to always use the truth to contradict people's faulty assumptions with Biblical replacements that must be embraced. The method of Jesus requires conflict in the thinking of the person; conflict that forces a renunciation of lies in exchange for truth that will guide all areas of life.

Below is a simple graphic combining the two concepts of worldview and spiritual development. The movement towards becoming a multiplying believer involves a decision on the part of each person to understand their faulty answers to the worldview pillars and then to exchange those for the Biblical answers as they comprehend Biblical truth at increasing levels.

The job of the disciplemaker is to help another person walk through this process. It is one of the most rewarding pursuits to give your life to, but also one of the most challenging at times. This process requires the disciplemaker to sacrifice time to spend with those being disciplined, it can be emotionally and physically draining, and can be frustrating. It also requires the disciplemaker to be intentional assessing where the disciple currently is and making a plan to help them move forward. The next section describes assessment, planning and how to implement a plan.

