

Sessions 7-8: Discipleship and Leadership Development

Key Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:1-6

Part 1: Making disciples in the church is a non-negotiable part of healthy church life: 2:1, 3, 6 "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus... endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ... if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully... The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits..."

- **We are a family, and family was created by God to shape the next generation:** "My son.."
- **The Christian life is hard, and we will need mentors to encourage us:** "Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus..."
 - **Luke 14:28**
 - **Ephesians 6:12**
 - **Hebrews 12:1**
 - **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**
- **We are in the midst of a spiritual battle with eternity in the balances:** "Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ..."
 - **Ephesians 6:10-11**
- **We will all stand before Christ at the Judgment Seat:** "Not crowned except he strive lawfully..."
- **We will reap in the church according to what and how we have planted:** "The husbandman that laboreth..."

Part 2: God gives us a simple pattern for making disciples:

- **This pattern was established in: Matthew 28:18-20**
- **The Pastoral Epistles give structure to that pattern established by Christ:**
- **Pastors much teach and pattern sound doctrine to everyone:**
 - **1 Timothy 4:11-13**
 - **2 Timothy 4:1-2**
- **Mature believers must teach and pattern sound doctrine: Titus 2:1-7**
 - **Older men must be...so that they can teach younger men to be...**
 - **Older women must be...so that they can teach younger women to be...**
- **Current church leadership must develop future church leadership from within the church: 2 Timothy 2:22**
 - **Learn from those who have maturity and experience:** "The things thou hast heard of me..."

- **Invest in those who are serious about the Christian life:** “Commit thou to faithful men...”
- **Use your time wisely to multiply your efforts:** “Who shall be able to teach others also...”

Part 3: God uses ordinary relationships to give these opportunities:

Act 18:1-2

- Aquilla and Priscilla were refugees/migrant workers in Corinth who had been deported from Rome due to anti-Jewish sentiment in the city.
- Paul and this couple became friends because they had similar skills and Corinth provided the perfect place to do their work.
- Paul’s interaction with this couple was clearly one of the NT’s greatest examples of relational discipling.
- When Paul left Corinth, he traveled with them to Ephesus and after a short period left Ephesus and this couple in the early stages of a church plant.
- During this time, they were able to help Apollos come to a clear understanding of the gospel and were influential in the church plant at Ephesus which would later become a strong local church.
- We later see evidence of this couple being present in Paul’s absence in the church at Rome (**Romans 16:3**), Corinth (**1 Corinthians 16:19**), and Ephesus (**2 Timothy 4:19**).

Part 4: Final Thoughts:

- Discipleship starts with the way the scriptures are handled in the preaching ministry of the church.
- New Christians need focused attention to establish a good foundation.
- As believers grow in the general corporate setting, there is still a need for a more personal focus.
- Mature men need to mentor younger men.
- Mature women need to mentor younger women.
- As some individuals distinguish themselves as having a heart to learn and apply, those in leadership need to take the time to invest in them more thoroughly.
- The church needs to constantly be thinking about its future, not just its present situation.
- The church should desire that it becomes healthy enough that it will not only be able to cultivate its own future leadership from within its own body, but that it will also be able to send out well equipped individuals to start, restart, or strengthen other local churches.