

"Discipleship — Practicing Relationships that Transform"

Ephesians 4:11-16

Discipleship - is the responsibility and privilege of every believer to lead others to Christ, helping them to know Christ better and trust Him more in practical aspects of life in the context of intentional, regular, and intimate relationships.

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.** And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”.

Doing discipleship means helping other to learn from Jesus Christ.

Eph 4:11-13 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,¹² **to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,**¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Eph 4:14-15 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.¹⁵ **Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,**

Eph 4:16 **from whom the whole body,** joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, **makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.**

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Building up - οἰκοδομῆς - (the act of) building, building up, in the N. T. metaphorically, "edifying, edification, i. e. the act of one who promotes another's growth in Christian wisdom, piety, holiness, happiness"¹

"Discipleship — Practicing Relationships that Transform" | Part 3

Edify One Another

Ephesians 4:15-16

Eph. 3:16-19 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

¹ Thayer Lexicon in BibleWorks 10

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I. Edification is Related to Truth

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

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1 Peter 1:23-25 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

James 1:18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Romans 15:13-14 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. ¹⁴ I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

1 Peter 2:1-2 So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—

1 Peter 1:22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Josh 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Ps 1:1-3 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ² but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

II. Edification is Aimed at Building up Believers in Jesus Christ.

Gal 4:19 my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!

Eph 4:14-15 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

A. Seek opportunities to communicate the Word and point people to Christ in all circumstances

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, **but only such as is good for building up**, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Edification of others in the faith occurs when we guide the people around us to the Word of Christ, help them see life in the light of that Word and encourage them to act in obedience to the Word.

- **We can talk about Christ and His Word in the ordinary circumstances of life.**

Col 4:6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

- **We can talk about Christ and His Word by reading the Bible with another believer.**

1 Tim 4:13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

- **We can talk about Christ and His Word by reading good books with someone.**

Acts 2:46-47 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ **praising God** and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

- **We can talk about Christ and His Word as we take a course together.**

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B. Pray for the faith of others.

Luke 22:31-32 “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² **but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail**. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

Eph. 3:14-17 **For this reason I bow my knees before the Father**, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ **so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith,**

1 Thess 3:1-2 Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone,² and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, **to establish and exhort you in your faith,**

1 Thess 3:5-7 For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, **I sent to learn about your faith,** for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.⁶ But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you—⁷ for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith.

C. Set an example of trusting Christ.

Hebrews 6:11-12 And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end,¹² so that you may not be sluggish, **but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**

D. Encourage the faith of others.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore **encourage one another and build one another up,** just as you are doing.

2 Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brothers, rejoice. **Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another,** live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Romans 15:1-2 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.² Let each of us please his neighbor **for his good, to build him up.**

Romans 14:17-19 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.¹⁸ Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.¹⁹ **So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.**

Hebrews 10:24-25 **And let us consider how to stir up one another** to love and good works,²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, **but encouraging one another,** and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.