

Back to Basics: Pressing on to Holiness, 6

Discipline: The Habits of Holiness

February 10, 2019

The Discipline of Disciples

1. Disciple (*matheetees*): a learner, pupil, disciple; one who follows one's teaching (Mt. 28:19).
2. Discipline (*hupopiazō*): to beat or buffet; to wear out; treat severely; discipline by hardships; to handle the body roughly. To strengthen through adversity (1 Cor. 9:25-27; Lk. 9:23; Titus 2:11,12).

Three Main Disciplines: Gather, Grow, and Go!

1. The Discipline of Gathering: Show up on the Lord's Day to:
 - 1.1. Worship: Confessing and displaying the worth of God in everything that we do (Jn. 4:23).
 - 1.2. Bible Study: Learn by watching. Open your Bible, follow the text, and listen carefully to learn how to interpret and apply Scripture (1 Tim. 4:13).
 - 1.3. Fellowship: You know the current circumstances of another believer at a surface level (their name and where they work) (Heb. 10:24,25; Ro. 15:7).
 - 1.4. Singing: Engage your affections, memorize sound doctrine, and encourage other believers by singing heartily to the Lord (Col. 3:16).
 - 1.5. Prayer: Listen while others pray and agree with them (Amen) as we ask God to do great things (Eph. 6:18-20).
 - 1.6. Giving: In practicing the principle of the tithe, you diminish your love of money and support the church's God-glorifying mission of leading others to holiness (1 Cor. 6:2).
2. The Discipline of Growing: Grow up in a community group for:
 - 2.1. Bible Study: Learn by doing. Studying the Bible with a small group works best if you have taken some time to do homework, interpreting and applying the text at the basic level before you meet. Sharing what you have learned with others reinforces you and encourages them (2 Tim. 2:15).
 - 2.2. Prayer: You not only listen and agree with others in prayer, but you lead others in prayer as they agree with you (Mt. 6:9).
 - 2.3. Fellowship: You know the current circumstances of another believer at a meaningful, friendship level. You know their full name, and the names of their spouse and children, where they work, current burdens they carry, and how to pray for them. They know these things about you. Hopefully, you have shared meals with them, been in each other's homes, and made contact with them socially on days other than Sunday (Acts 2:44).

- 2.4. Giving: Being aware of specific needs provides opportunities to give to share what you have with a specific person (1 John 3:17).
3. The Discipline of Going: Step up and invest what you've learned in others:
 - 3.1. Bible Study: Learn by teaching. This calls for advanced skills in which the disciple becomes self-feeding, able to apply sound principles of interpretation and use the tools (reference books) to explain and demonstrate relevance of Scripture (Heb. 5:12).
 - 3.2. Prayer: Nothing makes us feel our dependence on God and reliance on prayer than when we are trying to persuade others to know, love, obey, and exalt Jesus (2 Th. 3:1).
 - 3.3. Fellowship: The deepest fellowship comes from serving with others who are doing battle with you (Phil 2:25; Col. 4:7).

The "Secret" Discipline

1. When the disciple is so serious about personal and private holiness, that he or she seeks the intimacy with Christ that can only come through the *Krupto Principle*.
2. The *Krupto Principle*: Since it is possible to practice the habits of holiness for unholy reasons, the true disciple will also seek to practice the habits of holiness when only God can see. This is the test of whether or not you are seeking holiness for God's glory or man's praise (Mt. 6:6).

Review of the Habits of Holiness

1. Gather
2. Grow
3. Go
4. Hide
5. Bible study
6. Worship
7. Prayer
8. Singing
9. Giving
10. Service