

SIX PRINCIPLES ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS FOR EVERY DISCIPLE

Kingdom Training Class: Level 4

Eph 5:2... walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Heb 10:24-25 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Psalm 133:1 How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Colossians 1:28 He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

Principle 6: THE APPLICATION: Discipling Relationships 2

What we've learned so far... there is a logical progression in the teaching...

1. NOW....a way to live out loving relationships that help both you and another to be all that God wants us to be....Discipling Relationships...Class 2.
 - A. What you call it...matter of opinion. That we have these kind of relationships in our lives...a matter of obedience.
 - B. WHY needed?
 - a. Keeping baby Christians faithful
 - b. Keeping each other growing
 - c. Helping each other get all the way to heaven
 - C. Different People have had different experiences with relationships
 - a. Different experiences in the church (good, bad, etc.)
 - Wrong reaction to throw out the concept of discipling relationships!
 - **Col 1:28-29** present each person perfect/mature
 - The leadership here has chosen to have discipleship partners.
 - We want everyone to have Discipling in their lives. How we apply it to ourselves or to a congregation has some options. **HAVING THIS KIND OF SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP IS NOT AN OPTION! IT'S BIBLE!**

Sometimes it is a good way to know what discipling is by knowing what it is not.

- 1) DISCIPLING IS NOT..... The only way to mature in Christ.
 - But it is a way...it is a Biblical way we must have in our lives.
 - We and the body cannot fully mature in Christ without it!
- 2) DISCIPLING IS NOT.....being fully responsible to get another person to heaven.
 - Each person has an individual responsibility **Phil 2:12-13**
- 3) DISCIPLING IS NOT.....an authority over you (having to do what they say to do)
 - Word of God is the ultimate authority.
 - God's will is absolute and clear in many, many things. At times, we must wrestle to seek God's will for our lives (**Rom 12:1-2**)...many things are matters of opinion but as disciples we want to strive to do what is best....there are times we need help wrestling through to God's will
- 4) DISCIPLING IS NOT.....primarily confession of sin.
 - Should be primarily encouragement.
 - Certainly will help each other deal with sin.
 - I would not look forward to the time or the relationship if confession of sin is the expectation every time we meet.
 - When I am caught in sin, the monkey is on my back to confess and get the help I need.
 - We are not a detective or policeman with people's sin although we deal with it when we see it....it is out of love and care for people so they can get all the way to heaven.
- 5) DISCIPLING IS NOT.....primarily confronting what needs to change in a person.

- It is to be an ongoing conversation about life between two friends helping each other become more like Christ.
 - It is a walking together seeing an example of Christianity so we better know how to live it victoriously.
 - We are to be helpful, to urge, being patient, full of encouragement, full of teaching from God's Word, full of prayer.
 - There will be times when we need to bring something up...lovingly and gently confront and point out.
- 6) DISCIPLING IS NOT.....to meet all a person's needs.
- Individuals are to meet their own needs primarily. **Gal 6:1-5**
 - No person can or should try to meet all of another person's needs. Note: Men need other men in their lives and women need other women in their lives.
- 7) DISCIPLING IS NOT.....an accountability time.
- It is a time to talk, share, gain direction, gain spiritual perspective and spiritual input.
 - It can be a time to 'do' Christianity together with prayer, evangelism, helping the poor & needy, etc.
 - Each individual said JESUS IS LORD....hold yourself accountable for what you said you wanted to do. When needed, ask others to hold you accountable as a help as you work on a particular area of your life to bring it under God's control.
 - The world understands the need for accountability....diet groups, physical trainers, alcoholic or gambling anonymous, etc.
 - We need to expect the best out of each other.
 - We need to expect obedience and a keeping of our promise that Jesus is Lord.
 - There will and must be accountability if we are to help each other and be real with each other....but it is *not primarily* an accountability time.
 - Humility is needed...accept the fact that there are some things in everyone's life that we cannot do without getting help beyond ourselves!

REMEMBER...our # 1 discipler is GOD! **JAMES 1:2-5**

God moves in our lives...God uses people. God has always used people—imperfect / sinners

EXAMPLESHIP: a key for effective discipling Are you in a true discipling relationship? If not, find one.

John 13:15 Philippians 4:9 1 Corinthians 11:1

Marriage Discipling

- How am I doing?
- How are you doing?
- How are we doing?
- How are the kids doing?
- What's the schedule?

One On One Discipling

- Needs a set and kept time...weekly time for main person(s) in your life

As in the Old Testament, people were well organized into tribes, families, etc.

- So now we also organize ourselves
- 34 Ministry Regions around the world (we are the ACR—American Commonwealth Region)
- We have individual congregations in those ministry regions (we are the Northern VA Church of Christ)
- Within our congregation...Geographically organizedRegions and House Churches
- Out of the House Churches, we need people organized in D-groups and Discipleship Partners
- Note: the teens mainly have discipling groups out of the teen ministry with teen leaders.

You have been given the take home test....

This concludes our Kingdom Training Level 4: **SIX PRINCIPLES ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS FOR EVERY DISCIPLE.**