

HABIT 4 EMBRACING DISCIPLING / ONE ANOTHER RELATIONSHIPS

John 13:34-35 *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*

1. The Standard: Love Like Jesus

We MODEL our relationships after Jesus

- Focused friendships: *He called his disciples to him and chose twelve (Luke 6:13)*
- Occasional/situational friendships: He loved everyone deeply and discipled all who came into his life

How do we put these concepts into practice in our busy, fast-paced world?

- Develop focused relationships through “discipleship partners” and “discipleship groups”
- Goal: provide a method to help everyone live out “one another relationships”

2. The Command: One Another Relationships

There are 59 “One Another” Scriptures in the Bible

- Direct Christians how to act toward one another
- Govern & instruct our “discipling” relationships
- Form the foundation for all relationships

Christian one another relationships are designed to be at a much deeper level than the world

Romans 1:12 ...*that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.*

Hebrews 3:13—encourage one another daily

James 5:16—confess your sins to one another

Hebrews 10:24—spur one another on toward love
and good deeds

Ephesians 6:18—pray for one another

Galatians 5:13—serve one another

Ephesians 4:32—forgive one another

Galatians 6:2—carry each other’s burdens

Ephesians 5:21—submit to one another

3. The Application: Discipling Relationships (Practicals)

Definition of discipling: A committed relationship/friendship that has ongoing conversations about their lives helping each other become more like Christ

- To: teach, encourage, train, build up, sharpen, help, advise, and give perspective
- Two-way: it involves being open and being real; no one is “over” the other
- Friends helping friends

Matthew 28:20 *Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you...*

- **Imitation:** Christ is the standard and our lives are examples
- **Foundation:** the focus of our discipling relationships is our desire to be like Jesus
- **Commitment:** Set and keep a consistent time (weekly is best)

1 Corinthians 11:1 *Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.*

- Can be **individual or group** time
- Help each other with life’s ups/downs!
- Pray together: pray for each other
- Read scriptures: discuss insights/applications
- Be real: be honest & confess sin
- Openness breeds openness!
- Be a great encourager & be open to encouragement!

Discipling is: God's plan for maturing Christians

Colossians 1:28-29 *He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.*

- **Teaching:** to impart skills or knowledge
- **Admonishing:** to notify of a fault; to reprove gently, but seriously; to exhort; to counsel against wrong practices; to caution or advise; to warn against danger or an offense
- **Laboring:** it involves struggling to work together

Discipling is: Speaking the truth in love

Ephesians 4:15 *Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into... Christ*

Galatians 4:16 *Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?*

Proverbs 27:5 *Better is open rebuke than hidden love.*

Proverbs 27:6 *Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.*

- Better to hear the difficult things about ourselves from a friend than to have someone who does not love you enough to challenge you
- We like to say: "Level with me!" "Tell it like it is!" "Be honest!"

Discipling is: A method for teaching, guiding, helping, and getting advice

Romans 15:14 *I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another.*

Proverbs 12:15 *The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.*

Proverbs 15:22 *Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.*

Proverbs 19:20 *Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.*

Sometimes we know what something is by knowing what it is not

DISCIPLING IS NOT... *The only way to mature in Christ. Discipling is* a way live out "one another" relationships!

DISCIPLING IS NOT... *being fully responsible to get another person to heaven. Discipling* helps each individual to work out "their own" salvation! (Philippians 2:12-13).

DISCIPLING IS NOT... *an authority over you, having to do what they say to do. Discipling* helps you obey God! The Word of God is the ultimate authority. Seek advice to figure out God's will (Romans 12:2).

DISCIPLING IS NOT... *primarily confession of sin. Discipling* encourages you to overcome sin (Hebrews 3:13).

DISCIPLING IS NOT... *primarily confronting what needs to change. Discipling* helps you grow (Prov. 27:17).

DISCIPLING IS NOT... *to meet all a person's needs. Discipling* helps us meet our own needs (Galatians 6:2-5).

Note: Men need other men in their lives and women need other women in their lives.

DISCIPLING IS NOT... *primarily accountability time. Discipling* is a time to talk and gain spiritual perspective. Accountability is a great tool to help us achieve our goals. Be humble and get help!

EMBRACE DISCIPLING RELATIONSHIPS!

- Do you have a committed discipling relationship? • Have you **set and kept** a regular time?

Recommended Reading: ***The Power of Discipling*** by Gordon Ferguson.