



***The  
Disciple Driven  
Church***

***Disciple-Makers Handbook***

***by Dr. Terry M. Goodwin***

# The Disciple Driven Church

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## **Preface - The Great Comission**

What is the Christian Life? It appears that the farther we get from the death and resurrection of Jesus, the more difficult this question has become to answer. Modern teachers and evangelists have distorted and maligned the basic purpose of the work of Jesus on the cross. The work of Jesus stands as the means to reconcile man to God. There is no other way to make this happen. Jesus paid the price to repair what was broken.

Once we realize this and accept His sacrifice by faith, we obtain the right to become children of God - John 1:12. What is often missed in today's church circles is that God is building something that only He can build. God is building a bride for His son Jesus. This bride does not consist of those that attend a service on a set day of the week at a building we call the church. This bride is built through the power and presence of God's Spirit. This bride must operate by God's design. This bride must be built by God's design.

What is God's design for building the church, Christ's bride? God has given us ample instruction of how the church is designed to gather, function and be led. I have covered these topics in other books. This book is designed to give you the basics of your personal responsibility as a Christian. It will equip you to be and make disciples.

Why is this important? In today's modern organized religion, many rely on the structure of the organization to make disciples. No such structure is outlined in scripture and the responsibility for making disciples is only commanded of the disciples. When we delegate the task to others, we miss out on God's cheif means by which He builds the bride of Christ, His church. Only by returning to God's design for making disciples and building the church will we ever participate in the goal of redemption.

We must study the Great Comission in order to understand this process and apply it to our lives. We will never accidentally make disciples. We must prepare ourselves to make disicples. We must discipline ourselves to make disciples. We must first learn to be a disciple if we want to make disciples. This can all sound like hard work and it may be. This might be why the modern religious institutions focus on making converts or church members. We are never commanded by Christ to make converts or church members.

In Matthew 23:15 Jesus condemns the Pharisees for making converts and teaching them to be like themselves. God wants us to make disicples His way. He has not given us the green light to teach them whatever we want. We are to teach disciples to seek and follow Jesus, not our leaders or ourselves.

Let's start by looking at the command to make disciples.

### **Understanding the Supremacy of the Great Commission**

**Matthew 28:18-20** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching

**them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.**

This command is given by Jesus after His resurrection. Let's break it down.

1. Jesus gives this command after He has been given all authority. There is no power that can override or undo this instruction. It applies to us.
2. We are given a job to do. It is not to build a church. It is to make disciples of all nations.
3. As a part of making disciples we are to baptize them. There is no instruction in the New Testament that restricts the act of baptizing to approved leadership. This command has all authority and we are commanded to baptize.
4. We are commanded to teach our disciples to observe (obey) all of Jesus' instructions.
5. The command ends with a promise. Jesus will be with us till the end of the age.

In order to go and make disciples we must first "BE" a disciple. Whose disciple are you? Are you a disciple of Jesus or someone else? Many people have accepted Christ by faith but never been disciplined. You teach what you know but you reproduce what you are. Do not fall into the same trap the Pharisees fell into. Don't convince yourself that you are making disciples and end up making them into followers of man.

What does it take to be a disciple of Jesus? You must define what a disciple is before you can make one or even be one. The best place to find the definition of a disciple is by looking to the one that commanded you to make them. This is what Jesus said about being His disciple.

[Luk 14:26] "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

[Luk 14:27] "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ...

[Luk 14:33] "So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

By Jesus' own words, we must love nothing above Him, even our own lives. We must be willing to suffer for His cause. We must also give up all of our own possessions. Do you meet His requirements? If you do then He says you will bear much fruit and prove to be His disciple - John 15:8. Let's examine the marks of a true disciple of Jesus found in Mark 8.

### **Essential Commands for Every Disciple of Christ**

Mark 8:34

- 🕒 Deny Yourself  
A process of daily self-discipline.
- 🕒 Take Up Your Cross

- A surrender of your whole life.
- 🕒 Follow Jesus
  - A lifestyle of obedience.

In order to be a disciple of Jesus we must sacrifice. To become like Christ is to do what He did. Jesus had everything. He gave it all up to come here to people that had nothing and no hope. He served us and died for us so we could live forever with Him and share in everything. This is what Jesus did. We should do as He did. This is the Gospel.

Being a disciple of Jesus is about how we live and not what we know. Therefore it stands to reason that discipleship has the following qualities.

- Discipleship is not a method or a class – it is a “lifestyle” – a way we choose to live.
- Discipling comes from a root word which means "thought accompanied by action"; discipleship is teaching and learning *by doing*.
- The emphasis in discipleship is not on the facts or the information being taught, but on *doing* what we have been taught.

Discipling cannot be done in a seminar or in a classroom. It cannot be done in one day. It is a process of learning by doing, and the doing must be done habitually (or all the time).

The Goal of disciple-making is to bring believers to spiritual transformation and full maturity in Christ as they learn to follow Him in obedience and love. This must result in believers gathering together and living sacrificially together for others. These gathered disciples must learn to walk in both the physical and spiritual realms. This will result in the church being the supernatural, self-sacrificing, manifestation of God on earth. This is the bride that Jesus will return to claim! Disciples are meant to live like Christ, act like Christ, love like Christ and value what Christ valued. The church will display Christ to the world when this happens.

The context of discipleship must be framed in the context of God's creative and redemptive purpose for all of creation. One error of modern evangelicalism is to compartmentalize salvation, the church, and the earth into separate and distinct concerns. For example, salvation is portrayed as a merely personal issue between humans and God. Scripture makes it clear that salvation is the entrance into the body of all believers that will rule the earth. When we compartmentalize these things we make it difficult for people to fully grasp their part in God's creative and redemptive purpose.

### **The Missional Supremacy of the Great Commission**

There are three kairos moments in the New Testament which have changed history. The first is the resurrection of Christ. The second is the giving of the Great Commission to the disciples. The third is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. All three events are related to the fulfillment of God's creative and redemptive purposes. We will study the second of these – the giving of the Great Commission to the disciples.

Before He ascended to the Father Jesus gave a task to the remaining 11 disciples. This task is referred to as the *Great Commission*. In it, Jesus was giving instructions to His

followers as to what they were to do after His departure. They are His final words to them and have great significance for us, especially as those who are called to continue their apostolic work (John 17:20-21). To study the Great Commission is to study the task to which we have been called by the Lord Jesus Christ.

While all of the Gospels refer to this task in some form, the most comprehensive expression of it is recorded in Matthew 28:18-20:

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

A second passage, Acts 1:1-2, also gives us important insight into the nature of the Great Commission:

“The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.”

These two accounts give us a clear picture of the significance and details of the task given to Christians by Christ.

Jesus began the Great Commission with the words, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth...” The issuance of this commission is contextualized by the supreme authority of Jesus Christ in heaven and on earth. It comes from the highest possible authority. No other authority can overrule it. No other authority can change or modify it. To fulfill the Great Commission is to obey the authority with which it was given. To fail to fulfill the Great Commission, either intentionally (by disobedience) or unintentionally (by neglect) is to disobey the authority with which it was given. Clearly, this has serious significance for the Christ follower!

The Great Commission has been historically and universally accepted as the most comprehensive statement in the Scriptures concerning the mission of the Christ follower.

**The question is, “Do you agree that it is?”**

Do you agree that the Great Commission *is* the mission of the Christ follower? Do you believe it is as relevant today as it was in the days in which He spoke it to the eleven?

If we really believe the Great Commission is the mission given to the Christ follower by our Lord and Savior, and if we believe it was not an option but a command, then we must commit ourselves to know it, understand it, own it, preach it, live it, and above all *do* it. Anything less dishonors it and the One Who gave it.

The missional supremacy of the Great Commission means it is

The pre-eminent task of the Christ follower.

The highest missional priority of the Christ follower.

The defining visionary statement of the Christ follower.



The job description for every Christian.

The missional supremacy of the Great Commission means it is not another program, method, strategy, formula, or idea to add to your ministry; *it is what God is doing right now.*

If you are intentionally fulfilling the Great Commission by multiplying disciples who multiply disciples, you are doing what God is doing.

If you are not intentionally fulfilling the Great Commission by multiplying disciples who multiply disciples, you are doing something *other* than the work God is doing right now.

We can understand it like this:

*Make disciples* – the verb (the main action). . *A Disciple is one who embraces the Gospel that Jesus preached and dedicates all that they have to live by God's design.* . He is one who has dedicated his life to follow his master. To make disciples is to make followers of Christ.

*Go* – bring people to Christ. “Go and make” not “Come and see” The Great Commission is outwardly focused. We go to the lost and preach the Gospel. To make a disciple of Christ, we must bring that person *to* Christ to be forgiven and cleansed from his sins.

*Baptize* – bring them into the Church. Let us see the Jewish communal context, which originally meant conversion into the Jewish community. The word "baptize" tells us what we are to do after we have brought them to Jesus. Baptism brings them into the Church. The implication is that new believers can best follow Jesus as disciples from the context of their relationship with others in the Church.

*Teach* – bring them to spiritual maturity. We must bring disciples under the lordship of Christ and the authority of the kingdom. Teaching them to *obey* – action not academics! Jesus said we are to teach His disciples to "observe" (or *obey*) everything He has commanded us. However, the commands of Christ are not just rules to observe; they are a way of life.

According to the Great Commission, God has given us one thing to do: “to make disciples of all the nations.” This is the specific directive of the Great Commission. The Great Commission is not a general suggestion to evangelize, or a broad direction that allows us to do whatever we want in ministry. It is a specific directive (or command) to make disciples. The Great Commission says what it means and means what it says. The end result of the Great Commission is disciples living together and functioning as a body, not institutional churches, not home cell groups, not ordained leaders, not meetings, not ministry activity, but *disciples functioning together as a sacred assembly of peculiar people zealous for good works.* Jesus said “make disciples” because He wants us to make disciples. He was specific in crafting the wording the Great Commission.

The church is designed to be birthed through the making of disciples. Today we "plant" an institution and call it the church. When we make disciples to birth churches we build foundational relationships that are required for the church to function by God's design. One reason the modern church lacks unity is due to its approach to birthing churches. We should return to focusing on our job, making disciples, and let that naturally birth

churches. We can then follow God's design for how the church should be ordered and led. This will lead us to function as God designed, which will cause the church to be a glorious representation of God on earth declaring His glory and not man's.

Therefore, a vital question to ask yourself as a Christ follower is: "Do I have a personal, specific, and intentional strategy to make disciples in my own life?"

A question every Christian must ask is, "Am I on *the* mission of the Great Commission?" If so, the mission of the Great Commission will define our lives and ministries. It will become the focus of our time, energy, gifts, and resources. For the mission of the Great Commission to be our experience rather than a preferential belief we must *own* it personally. To own it personally, we must understand it clearly.

Jesus established certain specific criteria in judging who would be His disciples. One measure or proof of discipleship is *fruit bearing*. The followers of Jesus would "prove" their discipleship by bearing much fruit: "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples" (John 15:8). Let us note two important things:

**The Father is glorified** ("to honor with praise, admiration, or worship) as we bear much fruit. Bearing much fruit is an act of worship. God's glory is made known as we bear much fruit. God's glory will be less evident in our lives if we fail to bear much fruit.

**Bearing much fruit is a proof of our discipleship.** The word translated "prove" is the Greek word *ginomai*<sup>1</sup> and means "to become; come into existence; begin to be; to be made; to be finished". Literally, we *become* disciples of Jesus by bearing much fruit! One of the ways Jesus measures His disciples is by the fruit they have borne (Matthew 3:7-10; 7:15-23; 13:23; 21:43; Mark 4:20; Luke 3:9; 6:43-49; 8:14-15; 13:6-9; John 4:34-38; 12:24; 15:1-8, 16; Colossians 1:10; Jude 1:12).

We must not be careless about the command to bear much fruit. Jesus clearly wants us – you and me – to "make disciples of *all* the nations." However *we* measure success in our ministries, the measure of our success in the eyes of Jesus will be our obedience to the command to make disciples of all the nations. We will not escape this measure.

Jesus not only laid down the challenge of what we were supposed to do in order to win the world, He lived it out personally. Notice how He spent His three years of public ministry.

He preached and ministered to the crowds (the multitudes).

He taught and deployed the convinced (the "seventy").

He trained and challenged the committed (the "twelve").

He focused on and mentored the core (the "three").

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<sup>1</sup> Strong, James. 1890. *Strong's exhaustive concordance of the Bible*. Abingdon Press.

Jesus knew that though there was a time and place to preach and teach the larger numbers of people, the success or failure of His movement would be in the hands of the smaller numbers. This strategic investment in individual people through organic, lifestyle discipleship was the key to the continuation of Jesus' message and the establishment of His kingdom.

Jesus' discipleship strategy consisted of addressing four things:

- Character development

- Skills

- Theology

- Vision

Ultimately, Jesus was committed to:

- Transformation

- Behavioral change

- Fruit bearing fruit

**Question:** If this was the strategy that Jesus used, commanded, empowered, and authorized, why would we use any other?

## **Section One - Preparing to Make Disciples**

## **Chapter One - We are Made for Two Realms**

To understand God's redemptive purposes we must understand God's *creative* purposes. The "beginning" is where we will find God's heart and intentions.

"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?' ... He answered and said, 'Have you not read that He who created them from the **beginning** made them male and female, and said...' " (Matthew 19:3-6). Here we see Jesus taking the Pharisees back to "the beginning" so show them God's heart concerning marriage. This principle applies as well to understanding God's creative and redemptive purposes.

Through sin, the creation has fallen short of the glory for which it was designed. Redemption is God's work in restoring creation to His glory. God has written His glory and the eternal truths of His nature, purposes, and designs in creation. The physical creation involves both the seen and the unseen universe.

Jesus told Nicodemus, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again" (literally, *from above*) "he cannot see the kingdom of God." Clearly, the kingdom of God is a part of creation, and Jesus speaks often of the inability of those around Him to "see" the kingdom of God. He said, "The kingdom of God is not coming to you with signs to be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst." (Luke 17:20-21) Much of His teaching centered on explanations of the nature and workings of the kingdom.

Christian orthodoxy accepts the reality of the invisible created realm. There is an aspect of creation, which is inaccessible to the natural abilities and faculties of human beings. Some call it the spiritual realm.

Our objective in this chapter is to increase our awareness of the spiritual realm, the unseen yet powerful aspect of creation. We do so with the belief that the invisible realm not only affects us as human beings and disciples of Christ, but that it affects us greatly.

### **The Natural Realm**

1. The natural realm is the physical creation – the earth and sky (1 Corinthians 15:40-41).
2. The natural realm is ruled by natural laws such as gravity.
3. Time and space confine the natural realm and all of the natural laws related to time and space (Genesis 1:3-5).
4. Man relates to the natural realm through the five natural senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch.
5. The natural realm is also known as the realm of the flesh (Romans 5:5).
6. People, animals, and plants inhabit the natural realm.

### **The Spiritual Realm**

1. The spiritual realm is not a geographic realm (John 18:36).
2. It is outside of time and space, although it can relate to and affect events in the natural realm (2 Corinthians 12:1-4; Luke 2:8-14).

3. The spiritual realm is inhabited by non-physical beings created by God (Ephesians 6:11-12).
4. These beings have powers and positions (Daniel 10:7-14).
5. The spiritual realm is a place of great spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:11-17).
6. The warfare in the spiritual realm involves and affects events and people in the natural realm (2 Kings 6:14-17).
7. Due to these aspects, it could be concluded that the spirit realm is governed by spiritual laws

### **Made for Both Realms**

God made man to live and function in both realms.

1. When God created Adam, He placed him in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15).
2. Adam had fellowship with God in the garden (Genesis 3:8-9).
3. The Garden of Eden was a place where there was access between the spiritual realm and the natural realm.
  - It had both natural and spiritual animals and trees (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1).
  - God spoke directly with Adam in the garden (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:8-9). God entered the garden (Genesis 3:8) and man lived in the garden (Genesis 2:8).
4. God's original intention for man was that he live in the garden where he would have intimate fellowship with his Creator (Genesis 3:8; John 4:23).
5. In creating the man, God designed and equipped him to function in the spiritual realm as well as the natural realm (Genesis 2:15).
6. God's stated purpose in the man was that he would reflect God's invisible image and glory to the visible and invisible creation (Genesis 1:26-27).
7. Through sin man fell short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23) and was cut off from the garden (3:24). Hence, he was cut off from the one place where he had open access to the spiritual realm.
8. Through Christ, God has restored man to the realm of the Spirit in such a way as to enable him to function in it (Romans 8:9).

It is clear from the teachings of Jesus and the apostles in the New Testament that not all Christians are functioning equally well in the spiritual realm. Several passages of Scripture deal with this issue and shed light on the struggle inherent in walking in the Spirit (Romans 6-8; 1 Corinthians 2-3; 12-14; 2 Corinthians 3-5; Galatians; Hebrews 4-5).

Paul's words to the Corinthians are especially applicable to this discussion: "And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:1) The Corinthians had received the Holy Spirit but were behaving carnally, dominated by their natural senses and abilities, and using spiritual things (the Lord's Supper, spiritual gifts) in carnal ways. Paul describes their inability to function spiritually by handling spiritual or invisible things properly (Romans 8:5-8) as being spiritually immature. The epistle to the Hebrews also speaks to this as well (Hebrews 5:11-14).

### **How then can we function in both realms?**

Functioning in the natural realm comes through our natural senses and faculties. Functioning in the spiritual realm comes through our spiritual senses and faculties. We have the “equipment” to function equally well in both. For many believers, the spiritual functioning is neglected or weak.

Both Jesus and Paul spoke of “seeing” the kingdom of God in the sense of *knowing* it (the word “see” in John 3:3 is *eidon* which means *to know* or *be acquainted with*). Paul alludes to this in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 when he writes, “...though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day... while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

In the natural realm we function by what we can see and touch and smell and taste and audibly hear and by our experiences with those senses in the past. But in the spiritual realm to “see” is to *know*, to perceive, to understand without the use of the natural senses. What was lost through sin was our ability to be aware of and use these things, which are not seen, the things, which are truly eternal. Salvation restores to us that ability by giving to us the Spirit of God (Galatians 3:2; Romans 8:9). It is through the Spirit of God that we are able to see and understand the eternal, invisible, and spiritual things of God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16).

All of this begins with what we see. That is what faith is, the “assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). We “see” the spiritual realm and the things of the Spirit *by faith*. This *seeing* faith comes by hearing the voice of the Spirit through the Word of God: “So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17).

To live as children of God we must learn to live in both the natural and the spiritual realms. The spiritual realm is as much a part of creation as the natural – it is as real as the natural. If we fail to do this we will not properly handle spiritual things. If we do not properly handle spiritual things like, spiritual gifts and spiritual weapons, we will be ineffective at making disciples. Without working in the spirit realm we will be working in the flesh. This can never please God! Romans 8:8

### **Three Conclusions**

The purpose of creation is to glorify God. To glorify God is to acknowledge Him as God (Hebrews 11:6) not just with our words but our lives (Acts 9 – Paul must suffer for Jesus name). We can conclude three important things from what we have learned:

1. Both the natural and spiritual realms were created to glorify God.
2. If we live only in the natural realm, functioning apart from the things of the Spirit, we cannot fully glorify (or please) God.
3. The result of a carnal life (a life not directed by the Spirit) is not religious neutrality; it is, in fact, hostility towards God. If you are not filled with the Spirit and walking in

the Spirit, then you are not subject to God's laws, and are in fact living and working contrary to God and His ways and purposes.

How can we be sure we are working in both realms? It starts by understanding the difference between the two realms. Then we must practice working in the spirit realm by learning to discern good from evil (Hebrews 5:14).

**Is it spiritual or natural? (2 Corinthians 4:18)**

Natural things are *visible* (we see them with our natural eyes) and *temporal* (they will not last forever).

Spiritual things are *invisible* (they can't be seen with our natural eyes) and *eternal* (they last forever).

**Five conditions to see spiritual things:**

Be born again (John 3:3).

Be filled with the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-16).

Grow in faith by growing in the Word (Romans 10:17).

Be spiritually mature (1 Corinthians 3:13).

Develop a spiritual mind by handling spiritual things with increasing practice (Romans 8:5-8; Hebrews 5:14).



## **Chapter Two - What Gospel Will You Teach?**

The Gospel is the foundation of Christianity. Before you can be a disciple or make disciples you must be clear what Gospel you will preach. That may seem like a simple thing until you examine the Gospel according to scripture. The Gospel is termed in many different ways. Each of these names identifies a different aspect of the Gospel.

Gospel of the kingdom – dominion or rule Matthew 4:23

Gospel of Grace - Acts 20:24 - of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues

Gospel of Peace - Romans 10:15 - the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is

This Gospel was delivered to the Apostles to be preached throughout the world.

It is the Gospel we need to receive and obey. It has not changed and it will not change because the author is changeless.

What is this Gospel according to Jesus? It is a gospel of power being returned to mankind through the Holy Spirit. It requires obedience to Christ and separation from the world. It was confirmed through miracles but does not require them for affirmation. Jesus Himself said if they do not believe the writings of Moses and the Prophets they will not believe if even someone rises from the dead.

It begins with a simple word – Repent. Matt. 4:17 – without repentance we have no part in the Gospel. Repentance is the proper response to hearing the convicting word of God. Repentance continues in the life of a believer every time God, through His grace, reveals more of Himself to us. When we hear the truth and it convicts us we are faced with our sin and must choose to repent. If we do not repent, our rebellious heart becomes hardened by sin.

The Gospel requires obedience to God's will to enter in – Matt. 7:21

You must be drawn to the Gospel! – Jesus proclaimed that no one comes to Him unless the Father draws them. John 6:44

For those who experience the privilege of being drawn to Him here is what awaits. Persecution, suffering, ridicule, separation from family and friends, and discipline from the Lord.

For those who obey, there awaits them peace, joy, hope, power, dominion, authority, grace, love, faith, and rejoicing in the goodness of God.

For those who fail to repent and obey the Wrath of God abides on them. John 3:36  
What is required of those who are drawn? Our whole life! We must love nothing above Jesus, we must take up the cause of the Gospel and expanding the kingdom (our cross), we must lose our life in this world if we wish to keep it unto the next – Matt. 10:37-39

The Gospel is the Kingdom of God – His rule of authority in your life. It is the pearl of great price and the hidden treasure – we must sell all we have to own it once we find it. We are not to walk as mere men. We are to live like supernatural offspring of the creator of the universe. We have been given power and authority and have been hand chosen by God to walk as His heirs to His kingdom. We are more than stewards, we are sons and daughters. Our identity changed when we were born again.

Satan deceived Eve by offering her something she desired. He offered to make her like God. She fell for it because she didn't see herself as already being like God. Today Satan offers you the things of the world to bring you a "life". You fall for it because you don't see that you already have a life in Christ and the only thing keeping you from it is the very thing he is promising to give you. The world cannot deliver what you want – only the Holy Spirit can do that.

The mystery of the Gospel is that God would dwell in man and work through him in power. The mystery to me is why anyone would exchange that for the things of the world. The serpent is stalking you with entertainment, fantasy, money, leisure time, and as many other things as he can throw at you. As you cloud your mind and emotions with these things he whispers in your ear how God has failed to deliver His power and promises in your life.

A little bit of apple is still enough to cause a fall. A little of the world still pollutes. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. There is a truth to be told here. God has picked you, He indwells you, He desires your obedience as a sign of your love for Him, He has designed works for you to walk in, He waits for you to repent and obey. Instead we walk through this world of corruption trying to justify how much of it we can participate in and still get our ticket to heaven. This is not the Kingdom of God that Jesus preached – it is another Gospel. It is a corrupt Gospel that says make a profession and you get to heaven. Change what you are comfortable with and you are obedient – as long as its more than most.

Jesus said if you love me you will keep my commands – John 14:15 How many must we keep? How much of the world is too much? How much of Satan's apples keep us from raising the dead?

The Holy Spirit is given to those who obey – Acts 5 says - "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him." So why do we resist obeying the Gospel and the Word of God when it is revealed to us? What are we waiting for? Are we hoping it will change? It won't! Are we hoping there will be an exception made for us? There won't! Do we think God will just look past this point and give us all that He promises for us even though we do not obey God and

forsake the world? He won't. Why do we resist Him if we truly believe He is who He says He is?

## **Chapter Three - What's in the Way of Making Disciples**

If we desire to make disciples we must prepare ourselves to make disciples. The best way to do that is to become the disciple of someone who is already making disciples. Many people fail to prepare for the work of making disciples. They rush to serve before they are prepared to teach to obey. Paul told Timothy to discipline himself for the purpose of godliness. This should be our first step to making disciples.

Making disciples requires an awareness of spiritual things, the skillful handling of the word of God and time to spend with your disciples. Many think that they have a duty to serve God in any way they see fit. The truth for most is that they do not make disciples because they lack the capacity to do so. There has been little or no preparation. They are trying to function before they have capacity.

### 1. Building Personal Capacity Requires -

- ⌚ Consecration - hate your sin and repent of it daily
- ⌚ Forgive others daily until you feel the forgiveness for them. Bitterness and anger turns to sympathy and compassion.
- ⌚ Forgive specifically and emotionally
- ⌚ Explore your pain don't ignore it. Your pain is a tool satan will use against you and Jesus will heal it if you let Him.
- ⌚ Loving the world makes you an enemy of God - James 4:4
- ⌚ Until you have this process working in you do not expect to have fruitful ministry or real community. Your consecration is your responsibility. No one can keep you from it unless you let them.

Once a person has built their capacity to minister they can begin to function in the Spirit.

### 2. Personal Functioning Requires -

- ⌚ All ministry is rooted in the spiritual gifting that God has given us. We can engage in tasks but without using our gifts we can do nothing of eternal value.
- ⌚ We have a responsibility to understand our mission and to engage in being good stewards.
- ⌚ Stewardship begins with becoming a bond-servant.
- ⌚ Without consecration and spiritual gifting we cannot find our place in the body. Both of these things are our responsibility and under our control to do or use.
- ⌚ Understand the process I just outlined. We will repeat it over and over for others. It is just that hard and simple.

## **Understanding What is in the Way - Unmet and Overmet Needs**

The original intent of man was for him to steward and rule over God's creation - see Genesis 1:26-28. Humans were designed to be raised in paradise. Man gave his rule to Satan when he ate of the forbidden fruit. He chose to seek his own self over obeying God.

The result was sin. Man's original environment changed. Everyone born after this was raised in a fallen world. Our needs were met in a fallen world. We were raised cut off from the Spirit.

As mankind was raised in imperfection, it affected us in ways we may not think about. Our fallen parents may have tried to meet our needs to the best of their ability. They could not take us back to the environment we were designed to be raised in. Due to this, we may have been trained to react to our needs in our flesh. We were all designed to be raised in both the spirit and the flesh. After the fall of Adam and Eve, all offspring, excluding Jesus, were raised in the flesh cut off from the Spirit.

As we grew, we could only express our needs and receive our needs in the flesh. This trained us to build relationships that were dependent upon transactions to meet our needs. We cried when we were hungry until someone fed us. We cried when we needed a clean diaper until someone changed it. As we got older we learned to cry for what we wanted not just what we needed. If our parents responded to our needs in excess, it may have built unhealthy patterns into our lives. The same can be said if our needs were ignored. If we needed affection we may build up behavior that met that need even if it was negative behavior. If our need for affection was not met, we may find ways to get it met that are not holy.

Another example may be the need for affirmation. Some people have had this need overly met by a parent. This can result in a false view of themselves. Others may have done things to seek approval only to find it lacking. Both of these examples reinforce transactional relationships. As an adult we may find ourself still doing these things to get our needs met. This can result in unhealthy relationships.

Unmet and overmet needs can train us to relate to others on the basis of transactions. I want this need met so I find someone that will meet it when I do something for them. This form of relationship is built on the basis of fallen mankind cut off from the Spirit. God does not relate to us this way. God's love for us is unconditional. Transactional relationships say I want this need met so I will do this to get it. God's relationship says I offer you everything while you are still a sinner.

Some will say that God withholds these things until we agree to his requirements and the transaction takes place. Transactional relationships require that one party uses what they have to get a need met by the other. God does not have needs. We meet no need of God's by accepting the free gift of salvation. This can be a huge realization for many people. We can't barter or bargain with God. He doesn't work that way. He has a way for us to live that will bring us the best of everything. All He wants for us is to live by His design. The only way to do that is to obey Him.

Our training of unmet and overmet needs will stand in the way of our relationship with God. We have been trained in our upbringing to transact for our needs. God has restored the Spirit to us so we no longer need to operate in this way. We must move past transactional relationship to unconditional relationship. One hindrance to making disciples is the pattern of transactional relationship. When we approach a disciple with

this behavior pattern in our lives we may find ourself frustrated. We have expectations of our disciple. We are investing in them. They need to learn and change.

God does not work in you that way. He is patiently waiting for you to learn and obey. He continues to love you and bring you the correction you need to get there. He administers Law when needed and grace when needed. He opposes your pride and gives grace when you are humble. We must learn how to minister in Godly relationships.

We see at work in the world today a gospel that preaches a transaction as the goal. The goal of modern Christianity is to get professions of faith and repentance! We seek after a confession that satisfies us. We heard with our ears so this one is OK. Is this God's plan for us? What about the need for obedience? Why is that point emphasized so much in scripture? It is expressed in terms that appear to make it a qualifier for salvation. A possible nullification so to speak of the "transaction" of salvation I just described. But we know that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone - Eph 2:8+9. So what are we to make out of these following verse? Take a look at John 3:36, Hebrews 5:9, 2Thess. 1:5-8, Romans 2:1-11, 6:16-19,

The whole argument over eternal security is based in transactional relationships. We have expectations of behavior that when they go unmet we assess the sinners behavior against our expectations of what a christian should do and we assess if that person was ever saved or if they have left their salvation.

Transactional relationships cripple love. Unmet and over met needs shape our bondage. Unmet needs shape our relationships. We are lured into transactions with those we love when we don't get our needs met by them. For example - we have a felt need for our loved ones to accept Christ and be saved. We then act towards them in a certain way that is in some way directed by that desire. Instead of showing them unconditional love, which is what we are called to do, we try to direct them to Jesus. No one can direct anyone to Jesus. Only those that God calls can get to Jesus - John 6:65.

Identifying our unmet needs and our over met needs can help us to identify where Satan has us bound. Jesus can and will heal of us our emotional hurt in order to free us from our flesh. Remember that all our needs are met in Christ - Phil. 4:19. When we try to get our needs met by humans it feeds our flesh. We walk in the flesh when we respond to the behavioral conditioning of over met needs. We attempt to control outcomes when we participate in transactional relationships. Only by turning to Jesus for our needs and allowing Him to have His proper role as Savior and sanctifier can we join with Him in stewarding His kingdom.

## **Chapter Four - Dealing with Pain**

Satan sometimes lays the foundations of his strongholds in our lives through painful experiences. These painful experiences can include:

1. Sexual abuse
2. Physical abuse
3. Verbal abuse
4. Drug and alcohol addiction
5. Loss – of a loved one or a destabilizing loss of security such as losing your home to fire.

When we experience these things as a child it may cause us to believe lies about ourselves and about God that we carry with us to adulthood. Sometimes these lies are then reinforced and hidden under layers of experiences that cover up the original stronghold. In some cases of abuse people will make vows to protect themselves in the future. These vows can become hidden obstacles to your relationship with God and to enjoying fruitful ministry.

Many victims of abuse carry with them similar signs of their abuse in their adult lives. Here is a partial list of signs of past abuse that may have caused a stronghold.

1. Promiscuous relationships.
2. Always seeking something else obsessively in order to gain value as a person.
3. Addictive personality
4. The appearance of manic/depressive behavior
5. Low self worth evidenced by inability to look people in the eye or repeated pronouncement against themselves in some area of their life – I will never be any good because, or I deserve this bad thing in my life because...
6. Proclaiming a too good to be true past family life while relating stories of their childhood that are less than good.

In order to destroy the stronghold and be set free from it, you must dig through the pain of your past and uncover the lies that you believed as a result of these experiences. Any vow that was made must be renounced and you must allow God to heal you from the pain of your past.

In many cases the pain from your past has been well hidden from others for many years. The thought of digging into those experiences can be excruciating. If you want to be free from the strongholds of Satan you must tear down every stronghold he has in your life no matter how difficult or painful it may appear to be.

The path to freedom from pain is found in forgiving the abuser and accepting the fact that you are a victim. Many abuse victims carry guilt for what happened to them. They are ashamed of the condition they perceive themselves to be in. The Good News of Jesus is meant to cleanse us of the shame and guilt of our past.

When we put on Christ (Romans 13-14) we are clothed in righteousness and not the skins of animals. The Law no longer gives us the ability to look past our shame but rather our shame is removed through the Spirit.

Psalm 69 and 89 - Jesus bore our shame

Isaiah 54 - the descendants of Sarah will forget the shame of their youth and resettle the desolate cities

Isaiah 61:7 - instead of shame they will get a double portion

Ezekiel 44:13 - Outer Court ministers still bear shame and defilement and are cut off from the most holy things. They have not been cleansed of their past shame and guilt.

We recommend a book that we have found very useful in helping people to find healing in these matters. It is **Pain and Pretending** by [Rich Buhler](#).

If you are have trouble dealing with the pain of your past and would like help you can contact me at [terry@sunministries.org](mailto:terry@sunministries.org).



## Chapter Five - Understanding the Parable of the Sower

The parable of the sower is one of the most helpful teachings of Jesus when it comes to making disciples. Look at Mark chapter four. This parable is said to be so foundational to the kingdom of God that if you don't understand it you may not understand any of Jesus' other parables.

This parable explains to us how people will react to the word of God. Let's take a closer look at this teaching. According to this parable there are four kinds of people in the world. Each one is revealed in how they react to the Word of God - the seed.

Soils – Conditions and results

Soil 1

Condition - They are beside the road – uncommitted to the narrow path. They are not in the kingdom.

Result – The word is snatched and takes not root in them.

Soil 2

Condition - They are similar in some way to soil one – What is the similarity? – the word is received with joy – this soil raises no objection to the word spoken. They have no firm root in them. What is the root? In Revelation 22:16 Jesus claims to be the root. How do we know if the root is established in us firmly? In Romans, Paul says the use of our spiritual gifts can establish us. It also says the Gospel establishes us. In 1Thess. 3:2 Paul sends Timothy to establish them in their faith

To be established in Christ, the root, is to have died to yourself and be made alive in Christ. It is to abide in Christ through the spirit. It is the flesh in this case that persecutes the hearer. The similarity between the first two soils is that the flesh is alive and well in them. It has not yet been defeated.

Result – The result comes from persecution. The Word is trying to bring the flesh into subjection under the spirit. Gal 4:29 says the flesh persecutes the spirit. When this soil hears the word it is glad to hear it. When the flesh begins to fight back it takes advantage of the lack of a firm root in them and cuts them off from the fruitfulness that the word should have produced.

The result is seen in the word used to describe the result. They are offended!.

**Strong's G4624 *skandalizō***

**1)** to put a stumbling block or impediment in the way, upon which another may trip and fall, metaph. to offend

**a)** to entice to sin

**b)** to cause a person to begin to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey

- 1) to cause to fall away
- 2) to be offended in one, i.e. to see in another what I disapprove of and what hinders me from acknowledging his authority
- 3) to cause one to judge unfavourably or unjustly of another
- c) since one who stumbles or whose foot gets entangled feels annoyed
- 1) to cause one displeasure at a thing
- 2) to make indignant
- 3) to be displeased, indignant

### Soil 3

Condition – They are not said to be similar to the other two soils. They are among the thorns. The word "Among" here is to be turned towards or inclined to. What do the thorns represent? Matthew 7:16 says you cannot gather grapes from thorns. Yet here these people are "among" the thorns and thus rendered fruitless – no grapes. The thorns in Genesis 4 are a result of the curse. These people are not living free from the curse. Jesus bore the curse on the cross. He even wore the symbol of the curse on His head on the cross. They are still cut off from the fulness of God because the thorns have their attention.

Result – 3 things cause them to be unfruitful. Worries, lies, and desires for other things.

Soil 4 – They hear and receive the word.

- 1) to receive, take up, take upon one's self
- 2) to admit i.e. not to reject, to accept, receive
- a) of a son: to acknowledge as one's own

The result is fruitfulness.

The parable of the sower is not just about getting into the kingdom. It is about becoming fruitful laborers in the kingdom.

Notice these things about the soil.

- 1 – Rejection of the word.
- 2 – Internal conflict over the word.
- 3 – external things cause conflict for the hearer.
- 4 – hears and owns the message. They apply it to their lives and become fruitful.

If you want to make disciples that will make disciples you should be looking for 4th soil.

## Chapter Six - Understanding Law and Grace

Making disciples that make disciples requires us to walk in unconditional love. Without love all things are meaningless. In order to walk in love we must work in the same manner that God works. Jesus expressed this in [Jhn 5:19] Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

To minister in love we must become skillful in the use of the tools that God has provided for us. Before you begin this chapter please read 1 Timothy 1:3-11.

1 Timothy 1:3-7 is about fruitless religious discussions. There are those who want to discuss every possible nuance of the Bible. They want to know what's missing. What was Jesus childhood like. Why does he disappear at 12 and reappear at nearly 30. Or there is my least favorite discussion of Calvinism vs. Arminianism.

All of these give rise to mere speculation and do not lead to the stewardship of God which is only by faith. Many times this is presented as pondering the "deep things of God". What it really does is set up a false idea of spirituality that is based on knowledge and not practice. In order for us to steward for God it requires active practice.

1 Timothy 1:8-11 the Law is designed for a purpose and is good if it is used according to the purpose of its design.

The Law is the declared truth of God. It is designed to be an active guide to our stewardship. It accomplishes this as the spirit brings the Law to life convicting us of sin. The Spirit leads us to action and enables us to live by God's design. The Law leads us to condemnation. Grace leads us to life in the Spirit.

What is the purpose of the Law's design? Gal. 3:24 - Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

The Law is designed to show us our depravity, our weakness, our sinfulness. It is designed to oppose false teaching. The Law is declared truth. It condemns thoughts. It destroys speculations. Paul talks about it in spiritual warfare terms in

2Cor. 10:5 - *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

The Law is designed to proclaim the truth of God. The truth of God will lead us to recognize our sinfulness. This recognition will lead us to the need for Christ. The spirit will lead us to walk in harmony with the Law. The Spirit is designed to reveal truth in action to us. What is the application of truth? If all we get is truth or Law we are left condemned. Grace comes in with the Spirit to bring life to the Law and agreement in our mind.

1Cor. 15:56 says the power of sin is in the Law.

When we use the Law properly it will oppose false teaching and tear down speculations. When we apply it incorrectly it will lead the righteous back into death and keep them from the stewardship of God. It will leave those we speak truth to in a worse condition than we found them. They will be aware of their sin and left without a solution.

The Law is good when we use it to oppose those things raised up against the knowledge of God or to lead people to Christ.

Before Christ we are in a condition and after we put on Christ and receive the new nature we are in a different condition.

Our first condition is hopeless, a slave to sin and death. We are under the Law which means there is no escape from it. It rules over us and condemns us and will ultimately be our judge at the final day. No man can keep the Law, so all who are under the Law will be found guilty.

Our new nature puts us under grace. In Christ there is no condemnation. Sin and death have no power over us because we are under grace. We are under grace if we walk in the spirit and not the flesh. We defeat death because Christ promises us a resurrection and a new body. Grace insures that we will be found blameless on judgment day.

So how do we minister properly and use the Law for its design and grace for its design? We must first become doers of the Word. according to James 1:25. When we look to the Law for what's wrong with us then sin takes power in it. When we happily agree with the Law and do what it says then we find no condemnation in it. When we become doers of the word we walk free from the Law.

When we minister to others, we must keep in mind the power of sin is in the Law. We can use the Law or truth to point out error but if we do not offer the solution then we have only heaped condemnation on them. Speaking truth or Law is designed to bring people to a place of recognizing their need for Christ - the perfect Law. If you are talking to someone that proclaims Christ but walks in sin, then the Law is designed to teach them they are in sin and sin is death and slavery. If they are left there then they have no life in them and there is only one way to get free from that sin - repent.

Many who profess Christ are stuck in habitual sin. That means they have not yet discovered the freedom that Christ offers. Those who walk in the Spirit gladly accept the words of the Law and become doers of it. Those who walk according to the flesh walk away from the Law and are not changed by it. Remember our two conditions?

If you hear the Law and are not changed by it then what condition are you in - 1 or 2?

If you hear the Law, repent and become a doer of the word then which condition are you in - 1 or 2?

Does this change after you profess Christ? Can you profess Christ and still be under the Law? Paul told the Galatians that they could. Do you know people who profess Christ and are still under the Law? Does speaking truth - Law - in any way help their condition if they are already aware of their sin? Is it helpful to use the Law to point out their sin if you are not going to point out the solution?

Would offering them grace for sin they are aware of and refuse to repent from, be consistent with the character and nature of God? So what does God do with them (you) when you recognize your sin and don't repent?

What about your disciples? How do you use the Law lawfully with them? Can you simply speak or teach truth and leave it at that? Is that the Gospel or the Good News? No - it is the tutor that leads them to the Good News. If you don't have the solution then telling them the problem again and again is just cruel. Using the Law to point out error is to lead them to the solution - the Perfect Law - obedience to Jesus Christ.

If you profess Christ but don't desire to obey Him then you have to question WHAT exactly you professed.

Grace comes in where we are not able - being weak as we are - to keep the Law. How do we minister the Law correctly and steward grace? We must be careful to only declare the Law when we are ready to declare the solution. To tell someone they are in corruption but to come short of telling them how to get out is not a proper use of the Law. To give grace to a stubborn and unrepentant heart does not mean to continue fellowship with such a person. God does not do this with us. Our sinfulness can hinder our relationship with God and God is the author of grace.

Law is designed to oppose the thoughts and speculations raised up against God. This applies to all people even if they profess Christ. The solution is where grace comes in. God allows us to repent and be free from the Law. If we see the Law - Truth - and continue to walk in error - Sin - we can expect certain judgment. Romans 2

With your disciples - Use the Law to point out their error - but always offer the solution - Obey Christ

With your Christian friends - Use the Law to point out their error - but always offer the solution - Obey Christ.

Grace comes in when they refuse to obey. Grace postpones the judgment for their disobedience. With our disciples we can minister grace when we look past a behavior related issue and give them a chance to change. If we see God at work we can postpone judgment in order to give them time to repent. The proper use of grace requires walking in the Spirit so we can be in harmony with what God is doing in their lives. The proper use of the Law requires us to be walking in the Spirit so we can be in harmony with what God is doing in their lives.

The Law opposes the heart of the person - grace overlooks their condition. Law is about what they believe and think. Grace is about what they do. Many of our disciples are in very difficult situations. They have circumstances that make it very hard for them to live Godly lives. They are surrounded by evil and Satan has many strongholds in their lives. To point out all their issues at once - the application of the Law - would just condemn them. You must be wise and take Satan's grip off of them one finger at a time. Spiritually you can remove him all at once through the power of the Spirit and through the use of your spiritual gift. Grace is applied as circumstance overtakes them again. Grace is not applied to direct acts of defiance. That should be responded to with Law!

God does not extend the benefits of forgiveness to the unrepentant sinner. God does not restore relationship with the unrepentant sinner. If we extend grace to the unrepentant sinner we run the risk of leaving them in their sin. We must apply the Law to these situations and help the person be restored to God.

If you are stuck in sin then you must ask yourself why? Do you desire to obey Christ? What is preventing it? Is it an issue of circumstance or a condition of the heart? The issue of Law and Grace is always an issue of the heart. That is why it requires us to walk in the Spirit in order to minister the Law lawfully. Randomly communicating truth is not ministering in the Spirit. Randomly applying grace is not ministering in the Spirit. Skillfully battling with your left hand (Law) and your right (Spirit) requires you to first be walking free from the Law and fully under the Spirit.

### **Ministering in Law and Grace to the soulish man**

The soulish man is ruled by the natural senses and the mind, will and emotions.

We are stewards of Grace - 1 Peter 4:10 We are to employ our gift as stewards of the manifold grace of God.

In order to minister in Law and Grace we must be able to discern the power behind the stronghold. Strongholds are created by believing lies. Lies are instilled in us through wrong teaching, traditions or experiences. Once lies are in our mind they are held there by one of 2 things - will or emotion. When dealing with lies we must understand what is the power behind the lie.

Lies held in place by the will resist the truth. They are not open to it. They hold to their thoughts as an intellectual tool of protection. Paul calls these fortresses in 2Cor. 10:4.

In a similar way the emotions can hold us in lies and bad behavior. Pain is a powerful tool of the enemy.

As we minister we place people in situations that press against their flesh. God has gifted us with a life that requires the Spirit! When we press against the flesh we find strongholds. We must be able to discern the power behind the stronghold in order to effectively tear it down.

In all cases - the Word of God is used to renew the mind so it can be free from the stronghold. For many people this is the only way they know how to minister. It is a ministry of Law. Apply the correct teaching and walk away. The rest is on them. But we are to be ministers of Grace and preachers of the Gospel.

When a stronghold is rooted in emotions we must minister grace. When a stronghold is rooted in the mind we must minister Law.

Ezra 9 - it was grace that revived them in their bondage

Proverbs 3:34 says God gives grace to the afflicted.

When faced with a stronghold rooted in the will we must apply the Law and make the path to repentance clear - Grace in this context is postponing judgment. We should not facilitate a person's ministry in the case of the stronghold of the will. It will only produce corruption.

In the case of strongholds rooted in emotions we must apply the Law and minister to the area of pain making it clear to the victim what has caused their wrong thinking. Grace in this context is caring for the wounded. We should not facilitate person's ministry in the case of the emotional stronghold because it will only further wound the person.

The truth is proclaimed. The will is opposed and the emotions are ministered to as a wound. God brings freedom to those bound in the will by crushing them with the stone the builders rejected. God brings freedom to those bound in emotions by bringing healing to their pain. In both situations the currency of our ministry is trust. We build trust with those we minister to and they begin to trust God. As their trust is built up their walls come down. For some it is the walls of intellect rooted in the will. For some it is the walls of protection built on pain. In either case it is our integrity and willingness to endure that will build that trust. We cannot take up offense at the offender. We must learn to do as Jesus did and say Father forgive them for they know not what they do.

## **Section Two - Making Disciples That Can Make Disciples**



## **Chapter Seven - How to Make Disciples**

When Jesus calls us to make disciples, He is calling us to do what He did. As Jesus began His public ministry of preaching, He began to call disciples (Matthew 4:17-22). These verses show us a clear distinction between Jesus' preaching ministry (verse 17) and His making of disciples (verses 18-22). Jesus had a closer, more personal relationship with His disciples than He did with the multitudes that gathered to hear Him preach. The multitudes came to hear Him preach; the disciples walked with Him.

**Matthew 4:23 and 9:35-37 show us that Jesus did three things in His public ministry:**

He taught in the synagogues.

He preached the "Gospel of the Kingdom."

He healed every sickness and disease.

**As He ministered, Jesus saw three things about the multitudes:**

He saw that they were weary (no passion or strength).

He saw that they were scattered (directionless).

He saw that they were like sheep with no shepherd (leaderless).

Jesus felt a compassion for the people that motivated (compelled) Him to action. To reach them, He reproduced Himself by making and sending disciples (Matthew 9:36-10:1).

Jesus had a special relationship with His disciples. The Bible shows us several differences in the relationship Jesus had with His disciples and the one He had with the multitudes:

He called and chose the disciples personally (Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 6:13; John 1:42-43).

He taught them on a deeper level (Matthew 13:11).

He gave them power (authority) for ministry (Matthew 10:1).

He sent them out for specific ministry (Matthew 10:5).

He gave them special instructions for that ministry (Matthew 10:5-42).

He gave them authority to baptize (John 4:1-2).

He called them to a deeper level of commitment (Matthew 16:24-27; John 6:60-69).

He gave them the keys to the kingdom (Matthew 16:19).

He showed them His glory (Matthew 17:1-9).

He baptized them with His Holy Spirit (Acts 2).

**A disciple is a spirit-transformed follower of Jesus Christ.** The purpose of this transformation was to equip them to follow Him that they might reach the multitudes. We make disciples in the same way, by intentionally bringing them into a transformational relationship and growing experience with Christ in order that they might learn to follow Him. As we do this, we will empower them to be sent to the multitudes.

### **Six Marks of a True Disciple of Christ**

**A Disciple is Spirit-filled (Acts 2:38; Romans 8:9).**

He has received the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9).

He is walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16).

He is led by the Spirit (Romans 8:14).

**A Disciple is Obedient (John 14:21-24; Hebrews 5:8).**

Obedience is the evidence of our faith in Christ (Luke 6:46).

Obedience is the proof of our love for Christ (John 14:23).

Obedience is the key to Christ's presence in us (John 14:23).

**A Disciple is Faithful (John 8:31-32; Hebrews 3:1-2).**

Faithfulness is *required* (1 Corinthians 4:2).

Faithful is *rewarded* (Matthew 25:21).

Faithfulness is *measured* in small things (Luke 16:10-13).

Faithfulness is the *foundation* of discipleship (2 Timothy 2:2).

**A Disciple is Loving (John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:19).**

Love is *commanded* of disciples (John 15:12-14).

Love is the outward mark of a true disciple (John 13:35).

Love is the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 3:13-19).

**A Disciple is Reproducing (John 15:8; John 12:24, 32).**

Jesus is looking for His disciples to reproduce and bear fruit (John 15:4, 8, 16).

Reproducing is the essence (or key) to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

**A Disciple Lives Sacrificially (Luke 14:33).**

Sacrifice is the greatest expression of love (John 15:13).

Disciples give up their whole lives for Christ (Romans 12:1).

Discipleship should happen organically just as life happens. Organic discipleship, like organic evangelism, is not a program, a Bible study, a class, a cell group, or a department of the church.

It is a *lifestyle* of obedience and growing spiritual maturity characterized by a passionate love for Christ and others, a willingness to suffer in service, and a commitment to reach the lost.

Organic discipleship is the fruit of our relationship with Christ and His followers. One of the keys to making disciples is intentionality. Discipleship must be done with a specific goal, strategy, and resolve. If we are not intentional about making disciples we will likely not do it.

This intentionality begins with a commitment to make the multiplication of disciples a priority. This prioritization requires the dedication of *time* – hours and days in my weekly schedule. Discipleship takes face-to-face time with your disciples.

## **Follow the 2Peter 1:4-11 Principle of Discipleship in your Ministry**

Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* shortsighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

What is required to have the entrance into the eternal Kingdom supplied to us and to be fruitful and useful?

- Diligence in our faith
- Moral Excellence
- Knowledge
- Self-control
- Perseverance
- Godliness
- Kindness
- Love

### **What is the P.E.T.E.R. pattern of ministry?**

Provide – Empower – Train – Encourage – Release

Provide – Feed, heal, equip, organize, unite, pray for, and protect (Diligence)

Empower – Delegate tasks to those exhibiting moral excellence (Moral Excellence)

Train – Add knowledge, preach the Gospel, teach the difference between the holy and profane, disciple for self-control. (Knowledge and self control)

Encourage – lift up, walk beside, forgive errors, equip, Help them find their Eph. 2:10 work (Perseverance)

Release – Teach to show kindness and love, let go, mentor (Kindness and love)

As we make disciples we must gather them together to function in the world as disciples of Christ. This will allow for the proper functioning of the spiritual gifts and for love to manifest through them to the world. When a group of disciples is functioning by God's design for the church we call that the Sacred Assembly. Only believers that have had the Spirit of God restored to them can be a part of the Sacred Assembly. The Spirit is required in order to function in the church that operates by God's design.

There are two distinct settings where this assembly operates. One is in the gathering of the believers. The other is in the world. The gathering is designed to build up the believers and increase their capacity for ministry. The world is where our functioning builds the church and stands against evil. We call this Pastoring the Community.

The objective of Pastoring Your Community is to release it from the control of Satan and bless it by the manifest presence of God through His consecrated people living out His design. With this in mind, what will Pastoring the Community look like or entail for us in our ministries?

We will be a visible representation of God to the lost.

We will fulfill God's design for our part of the covenant.

We will break down Satan's grip on our community so the people will be free to choose to know and serve God.

We will exercise our God given dominion and authority over evil.

We will restore God's glory to man through discipleship as we make disciples that make disciples.

### **What is required of us to work in God's design?**

Find your soil

Diligence is the first requirement. Make it your top priority to serve God and others above yourself. Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Christ.

Do Spiritual Warfare.

Preach the Gospel when opportunity arises.

Be a Disciple

Consecrate yourself.

Be equipped to teach others.

Make Disciples

Find and develop your spiritual gifts.

Find your Eph. 2:10 works by serving others.

Be a part of a biblically functioning community

Pastor your Community

### **Seek to guide your new disciple in the following ways:**

Be filled with the Holy Spirit

Grow in his awareness of the presence of God

Learn to hear God's voice through the Word

Develop a strong love for God and his neighbor

Repent of his sins and clear his conscience

Share his faith with others

Skillfully operate in his spiritual gifts

**Above all, make sure you help him/her make their first disciple.**

### **Preparing to Make Disciples**

Prayer - the first step in beginning a discipling ministry is preparation. Preparation always begins with prayer. There are two aspects of prayer you should develop:

Personal prayer – build up your own prayer life. Make sure you are having quality quiet times with the Lord. Learn to meditate in and pray the Scriptures. Read books and devotionals on prayer. Find a “prayer warrior” and spend much time with him, learning from him. Put prayer into practice.

Intercessory prayer – recruit intercessors to pray for you every day. The more intercessors you have the more you will be covered by their prayers of faith. As you enlist them, ask them to also consider fasting for you at least one day each week. Communicate with them the information they will need to effectively pray for you and your disciples.

Preparation also involves study. Give yourself continually to the study of God’s Word. Read the Bible every day. Memorize key verses. Meditate in larger portions of the Bible.

A third step in preparing yourself to make disciples is to *be* a disciple. Are you following the Lord Jesus? Can you hear His voice speaking to your heart?

A fourth step is to develop the skills associated with being a good disciple-maker.

These skills and attitudes will make you a better discipler and will insure the work you are doing will bear lasting fruit.

## **Chapter Eight - Teaching Disciples to Obey**

**Discipleship** is learning within the context of a relationship with a “master” – someone more knowledgeable and experienced. It is more of a guided apprenticeship than it is a series of Bible studies or lessons. The disciple learns by doing and by being accountable to a discipler for what he has done and should be doing.

Because of this, we do not provide you with a package of discipleship lessons, nor do we encourage you to use or become reliant on them. Wherever possible, the leader should develop his own discipleship lessons and teach each of his leaders to develop their own as well.

### **Developing your own lessons has several key advantages:**

- It will force you to learn the lessons as you develop them.
- It will create more ownership for you in what your disciples are learning.
- You will teach your own lessons with more passion than you would when teaching someone else’s lessons.
- You will be able to incorporate real life situations into the lessons you are teaching.
- You will be more flexible in what you are teaching.
- You will have a greater opportunity to hear the voice of the Spirit and greater intentionality in seeking His leadership if you develop your own lessons.
- You will tend to teach what you have experienced when you are doing your own lessons, rather than teaching only what you know.
- You can include specific action points and spiritual growth tasks which may not be included in packaged lessons or which are more suitable than the ones included in the packaged lessons.
- You can customize the lessons, making them more personal to your disciples.
- You will be teaching your generations after you how to develop their own discipleship lessons. Instead of giving them a fish, you will be teaching them to fish.

The following material contains some tools you can use to develop your own lessons. These tools highlight some important principles disciples should learn and reproduce in their lives.

### **Start with Doctrine**

There is much debate over doctrine in the institutional church. However, doctrine is important and you must decide what you will teach. I suggest making a short list of the doctrine you think makes one a Christian. These are the non-negotiables. Back each up with scripture and develop lessons to teach each one. Your new disciples will not have a firm foundation without this, . The assessments included in the Appendix are designed to assist this process and can be modified to fit your doctrinal list.

### **Then establish obedience as one of the first lessons a disciple should learn.**

(Genesis 22:18) “*In your seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.*”

(Exodus 19:5) *'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all people, for all the earth is Mine.'*

(1 Samuel 15:22) *"...Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams."*

(Jeremiah 7:23) *"Obey my voice and I will be your God, and you will be My People."*

(Luke 6:46) *"Why do you call Me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?"*

(John 14:15) *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."*

(John 14:23) *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep my words."*

(Acts 5:29) *"We must obey God rather than men."*

### **Emphasize Character Development**

The Beatitudes show the character of a disciple (Matthew 5:3-11).

A disciple is:

- Poor in spirit – aware of his own spiritual poverty
- One who mourns – empathetic
- Gentle (meek) – Yielded to God
- One who hungers and thirsts for righteousness
- Merciful
- Pure in heart
- A peacemaker
- One who rejoices through persecution

We are seeking to live an active Christian life. In order to do that we must learn to walk in both realms. Our active Christian life should contain all of the following.

- Spiritual discipline for consecration.
- Gathering with the sacred assembly for edification and declaration.
- Gathering with the church to move the 70 and the 9 to maturity
- Corporate and individual prayer
- Spiritual Warfare.
- Active service to the community
- Evangelism as a way of life.
- Making disciples
- Using our spiritual gifts
- Caring for the poor, widows, orphans, and oppressed.

In order to do what God has commanded us to do we must learn to live these spiritual realities. As you get started on the path to fulfilling the Great Commission in your life you will have to overcome some habits and myths.

### **Avoid the myths about evangelism and disciple making.**

- **Myth: "Everyone should be saved."**
- **Myth: "People are tired of Christianity."**
- **Myth: "It is the pastor's job to win the lost."**

- Myth: “To win the lost we must plant churches.”
- Myth: “To win the lost we must put more people into the church seats.”
- Myth: “Evangelism *is* discipleship.”
- Myth: “The gospel shouldn’t be offensive.”

**Remember the Six Marks of a True Disciple.**

1. **A Disciple is Spirit-filled (Acts 2:38; Romans 8:9)**
2. **A Disciple is Obedient (Hebrews 5:8).**
3. **A Disciple is Faithful (Hebrews 3:1-2).**
4. **A Disciple is Loving (John 13:34-35).**
5. **A Disciple is Reproducing (John 12:24,32).**
6. **A Disciple Lives Sacrificially (Luke 14:33)**

All of these things should be evident in a disciple of Christ. When the church is built through discipleship then it will manifest these traits to the world as it Pastors the Community.

A Principle of Discipleship – We teach what we know but we reproduce what we are. Your first step in making disciples is to examine yourself. Do you have the six marks of a disciple in your life? Jesus will bless a surrendered heart and a submitted life.

**We must teach disciples to obey in order to fulfill the Great Comission.**

- ⌚ **John 14:15 “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”**
- ⌚ **John 14:23 “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words.”**
- ⌚ **Acts 5:29 “We must obey God rather than men.”**

**Seven Major Commands of Christ**

(A “major” command does not mean other commands are less important; it means that many other commands will flow out of one of these seven.)

- Repent, believe, and be baptized (Mark 1:15; Matthew 28:19).**
- Receive the Holy Spirit (John 20:22).**
- Love God and neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40).**
- Celebrate the Lord’s Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).**
- Pray daily (Luke 18:1).**
- Live sacrificially (Matthew 19:21; John 15:13; Luke 14:33).**
- Make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).**



## **Chapter Nine - Spiritual Disciplines**

The Christian life is a life of discipline and obedience. Attempting to live as a Christian without applying spiritual disciplines to your life is like trying to guide a car without a steering wheel. You will be tossed about by every bump in the road. The establishment of spiritual disciplines in the life of a believer helps to mature them in the faith.

### **Personal Spiritual Disciplines**

1. Prayer - communicating with God.
2. Bible Study - understanding the Word of God.
3. Giving - intentionally giving tithes and offerings.
4. Serving - having a ministry.
5. Fasting - deliberately choosing to abstain from food.
6. Meditation - going deeply into passages of Scripture.
7. Evangelism - sharing your faith with another person or group.
8. Stewardship - surrendering my possessions to the Lord.
9. Journaling - recording your thoughts and events in a book.
10. Living by Faith – walking in the Spirit.

### **Prayer**

Suggestions to help your prayer life.

1. Ask God to show you a better prayer life.
2. Find Scripture that addresses your need and personalize it in prayer.
3. Focus your prayers on only spiritual things for a period of time.
4. Make a prayer list and review it before you pray. This will help keep you focused and keep your mind from wandering.
5. When you do not know what or how to pray, ask the Holy Spirit to intervene on your behalf.

### **Bible Study**

1. Find a topic or area that interests you and start there.
2. Learn to use study tools like commentaries and cross references.
3. When the Bible seems dry practice memorization.
4. Pick a word of interest and follow it through the Bible using a concordance.

### **Giving**

#### **God wants you to be financially free!**

Choosing to serve God rather than money (Matthew 6:24).

Trusting God totally for every need (Deuteronomy 8:18).

Obeying Biblical teachings concerning money (John 14:21-23).

Staying out of debt (Romans 13:8).

Working diligently (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

Establishing God's priorities in your life (Haggai 1:9).

Choosing a good name rather than riches (Proverbs 22:1).

Learning contentment (Philippians 4:11-12).

Giving up all of your possessions (Luke 14:33).

### **God's Four Purposes for Money:**

- To Provide Basic Needs
- To Confirm Direction
- To Enable Us to care for others
- To Illustrate His Power in Our Lives!

The world wants us to believe that we have a right to indulge ourselves with our money. If we earned it we can do with it as we please. Jesus did not teach this. One way we will live separate from the world is by separating ourselves from the love of money. Nothing demonstrates this better than what we do with out money.

### **Serving God**

This is what God made you to do – get started doing it in some way. If you need help figuring out how or where ask the person who is discipling you.

### **Fasting**

There are many different **kinds** of fasts:

**Full Fast** - denying yourself food or drink (other than water) for a **minimum** of 36 hours.

**Partial Fast** - denying yourself food or drink (other than water) for **less** than 36 hours.

**Substitutionary Fast** - eating a modified diet.

**Fasting as a Discipline** - regular fasting designed to discipline the flesh and strengthen the spirit.

**Corporate Fasting** - fasting with others

Fasting strengthens the spirit of the disciple of Christ.

Fasting denies the flesh and brings it under the control of the spirit.

### **Purposes for Fasting**

Strengthening the spirit (Luke 4:1-2,14)

Intercessory prayer (Deuteronomy 9:18)

Seeking discernment of God's will (Judges 20:23-27)

Mourning (1 Samuel 1:1-7)

Confession and repentance (1 Samuel 7:1-6)

Worship (1 Samuel 9:11-13)

Grief (1 Samuel 20:34; 31:13)

Supplication (2 Chronicles 20:1-3)

Seeking God's will and guidance (Ezra 8:21-23)

Remember that fasting is more than simply not eating food (and sometimes something other than that). It is about denying your flesh (see Isaiah 58). If a physical condition prevents you from abstaining from food (pregnant/nursing, illness, etc) then prayerfully consider alternative ways to deny your flesh. Remember, fasting is a discipline, the purpose of which is to strengthen your spirit and allow you to hear and obey the Holy Spirit better. It is not simply another exercise to check off your spiritual to-do list.

### **Evangelism**

Sharing your faith with another person or group.

1. Start with prayer
2. Be natural and relaxed
3. Have a silent prayer partner
4. Watch for Holy Spirit led opportunities to share
5. Be sensitive to any questions that are asked – it's ok if you don't have every answer
6. Be prepared to state the basics of the Gospel

#### **Four Main Points in the Gospel:**

- ⌚ Everyone is a sinner. Romans 3:23
- ⌚ Everyone is lost without Christ and needs to be saved. Romans 6:23
- ⌚ Christ died for everyone's sins. Romans 5:8
- ⌚ Everyone must receive Christ by faith, trusting Christ alone for his salvation. John 1:12 Ephesians 2:8-9

Don't fall into the trap of preaching to get a profession of faith. We are commanded to make disciples not converts. There is no hurry to get a decision from someone. They must be led to count the cost of following the full Gospel of Jesus.

### **Stewardship**

Stewardship is surrendering my possessions to the Lord. We must recognize God's ownership over all that you have and be willing to use it for Him. The term steward applies to someone that cares for and manages another person's belongings. You cannot steward your own stuff.

### **Journaling**

Recording your thoughts and events in a book.

This builds your faith as you review what God has done in your life

### **Living by Faith – walking in the Spirit.**

What does it mean to live by faith and walk in the Spirit?

“Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen...And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:1, 6)

“And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to *receive* it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, are you not walking like mere men?” (1 Corinthians 3:1-3)

Walking faith by the power of the Spirit is the supernatural life you were born again to live. We cannot please God without walking by faith. We cannot walk by faith without the Spirit.

### **Some Guidelines for Walking in the Spirit**

1. Be *born again* (John 3:3).
2. Be *filled with the Holy Spirit* (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16).
3. Be *spiritually mature* (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).
4. Be *spiritually minded* (Romans 8:5-8).
5. Have *no condemnation* (Romans 8:1).
6. Walk in *freedom from fear* (Romans 8:15).
7. *Pray* in the Spirit (Romans 8:26).
8. Develop and operate in your *spiritual gifts* (1 Corinthians 12:1).
9. Be led by the Spirit by *following His promptings* (Romans 8:14).
10. Do not be *entangled in the world* (2 Timothy 2:4).
11. Master *spiritual disciplines* (1 Timothy 4:7).
12. Learn the spiritual discipline of *waiting* (Romans 8:25).

### **Disciplines of Abstinence**

1. Fasting - deliberately choosing to abstain from food.
2. Silence - not speaking for periods of time.
3. Simplicity - doing the same things with fewer resources.
4. Solitude - deliberately being alone with God.
5. Submission - choosing to yield your rights to another; humility.
6. Secrecy - doing acts of kindness secretly.
7. Watching - spending extended times in prayer.
8. Frugality - abstaining from using money to gratify our desires.
9. Sacrifice - abstaining from the enjoyment of necessary things.
10. Chastity - purposefully abstaining from sexual intercourse.

### **Corporate Disciplines**

1. Corporate Prayer - prayer with others.
2. Confession - telling our faults and sins to another.
3. Celebration - honoring a person or event with others.
4. Worship - expressing praise and adoration for God with others.
5. Guidance - seeking the wisdom and counsel of others.

Make a plan on how you will improve and ask someone to help you along the way.

### **Section Three - Birthing a Church by Making Disciples**

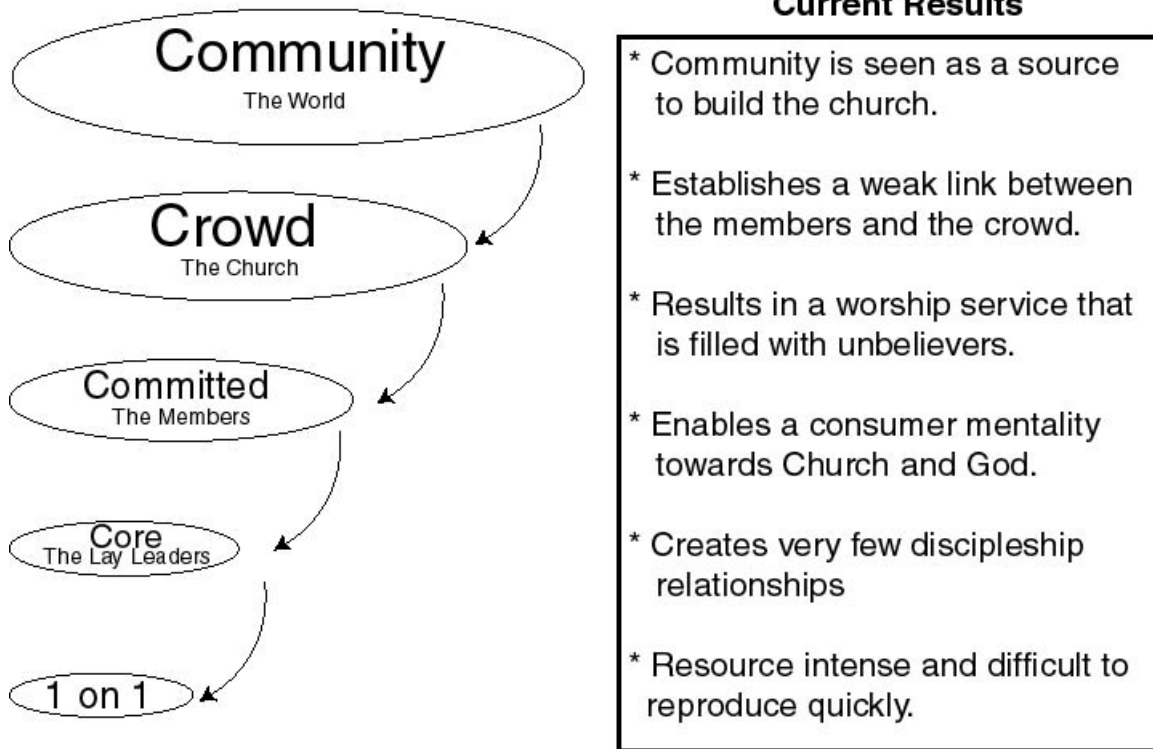
## Chapter Ten - The Church by God's Design

Developing a Great Commission mindset requires transforming the way we think about the church. For too long the church has been identified by its outward forms – its buildings, its services, its governing structures, its clergy...

Church attendance statistics warn us that if we do not re-discover the spiritual, organic and transformational nature of the church in this generation it may cease to exist in a meaningful way in the next generation.

**The current model of church that permeates America is based on something like this.**

### **Modern American Model of Church**



**In order to change this model we must transform the way we think about church.**

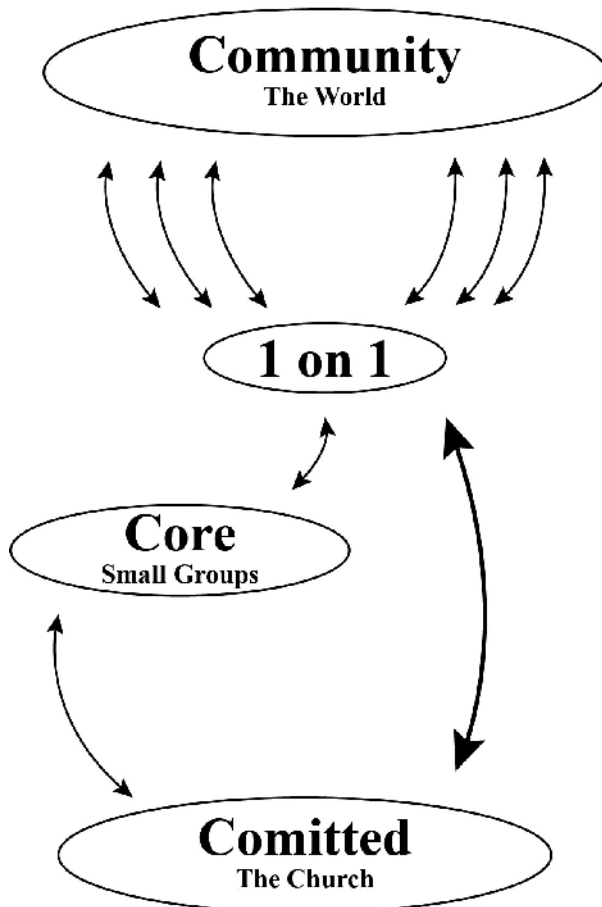
#### **Common Habits We Need to Avoid.**

1. Inviting people to Church
  - ⌚ Relies on the church to reach people
  - ⌚ Creates a weak link between people and the church
  - ⌚ Enables a consumer mentality

2. Attracting people to Church
  - ⌚ Focuses the church service on appealing to the lost not worshipping God
  - ⌚ Let's the lost control the church
  - ⌚ Enables a consumer mentality
3. Doing Ministry Through Programs
  - ⌚ Puts God in a man sized box
  - ⌚ Control's people's service instead of releasing them to fulfill their passion
  - ⌚ Promotes a false sense of fulfilling our obligations to serve God
4. Meeting Needs Through Impersonal Methods
  - ⌚ We must use our resources to empower people to meet needs personally
  - ⌚ A common tendency is to give through organizations that help the needy.
  - ⌚ Denies us opportunity to connect with the lost and share Christ's love and provision with them personally
5. Being Too Quick to Lead Someone in a Prayer of Repentance
  - ⌚ We must ask new disciples to count the cost.
  - ⌚ We do not need to fear losing them.
  - ⌚ We must recognize that Christ does the work and not us.
6. Waiting for the Church to Start a Ministry
  - ⌚ We want to empower people (you) to serve God through your passions. You must initiate the process.
  - ⌚ The church is to support you and equip you to fulfill your passionate service to God.
  - ⌚ The church can help you discover that passion.
7. Putting Other Things Above the Great Commission
  - ⌚ All that we do will flow from fulfilling this command
  - ⌚ When we let other things come first then the mission of the church is distorted
  - ⌚ Our spiritual battle centers around this command and we must never forsake this battle.

# Disciple Driven Church

## Current Results



- \* Community is the Mission Field to be cared for by the church.
- \* Establishes a strong link between the church and the community
- \* Results in a worship gathering that is full of only believers
- \* Deters a consumer mentality towards church and God
- \* Is based in Discipleship relationships and built on spiritual gifts
- \* Easy to reproduce quickly

In the Disciple Driven Model of church every believer is discipled by someone. We avoid the traps of invitation and attraction so every person enters the church through a discipleship relationship. This change in the structure allows some extraordinary things to develop.

1. The ministry of the church is focused on the world not within the church
2. Small groups become the training ground for committed disciple makers
3. The church can exist for the purpose God intended without the pressure to change its structure to appeal to the lost or the fear of being ineffective
4. As the church assembles to worship and take communion it then releases the members to minister in one-on-one relationships with the lost in the world.
5. The responsibility to reach the lost is that of every member working through the Holy Spirit, not the church or the clergy.



6. As new believers are brought in to the church they are quickly trained and sent out to make disciples which enables a multiplication movement.
7. Resources are directed through disciples towards the lost world and not consumed by events, programs, and buildings.

### **How Do We Grow the Church?**

#### **Jesus' Job:**

**To Build His Church (Matthew 16:18)**

#### **Our Job:**

**To Make Disciples (Matthew 28:19)**

**Whose job are you doing?**

**We must focus our energy on what Jesus has instructed us to do and be confident that He will do what He said He would do.**

Our job is to examine ourselves first and develop our spiritual disciplines.

We must seek the lost in prayer and ask God to lead us into Holy Spirit led encounters with the lost.

We must be ready to act when the opportunity presents itself.

We must be seeking the opportunity at all times.

### **Preparing Your Disciples to Evangelize**

#### **Three Key Steps:**

- ⌚ **Motivation (*Passion*) – a determined response to achieve an accepted goal.**
- ⌚ **Accountability (*Coaching*) – responsible to accomplish specific goals.**
- ⌚ **Training – (*Teaching*) information (*what*) and instruction (*how*).**

**You have been given all authority to go and make disciples. Your authority comes from the risen Christ. Keep it simple and follow the lead of the Holy Spirit.**

**Prepare yourself through self-examination**

**Develop your spiritual disciplines**

**Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you in making Disciples**

**Watch for God given opportunities**

**Prepare yourself to be able to act on these opportunities**

**God is responsible for the results you are responsible for the preparation**

**Your results are guaranteed –**

[Mat 7:11](#) - If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Now Go – Make Disciples

## **Chapter Eleven - Gathering & Leading**

It is important to remember that one goal of making disciples is to establish the church. The church as described in scripture is the assembly of the believers. It is the place where God inhabits His people and manifests His presence through the spiritual gifts that He bestows on His children. No discussion of the Great Commission is complete unless it leads the disciples to gathering and functioning as the church.

This handbook is not designed to instruct you on "how" to do that. The "how" is something God will lead you into if you have followed the rest of the instruction in this book. I want to give you some general topics that you must explore in order to be the church.

There are several things we are instructed on in scripture that have to do with the leading and functioning of the church.

1. The spiritual gifts
  - Five leadership gifts
  - Manifestation gifts
  - Ministry gifts
2. Baptism
3. Communion
4. Elders
5. Deacons

All of these must be examined in the light of scripture in order to be sure we are following God's design for the church. When you study these things you must remember that context is everything. Every epistle in the New Testament was written to only believers. Keep that in mind as you look for the instruction of what to do and how to do it.

The sacred assembly of believers was designed by God to be fruitful, multiply, steward and rule over all of His creation. As you gather with your disciples you must look around you and see where the enemy is attacking your community. This is an indicator of where you can fight back through sacrifice, love and service.

Service to the world is a fruit of making disciples. Never lose sight of the foundation of disciple making. Follow the Spirit's lead in establishing leadership. Don't be in a hurry. In the early church it could be decades before elders and deacons were appointed. Establish structure as a response to need and not as a control.

The following appendix includes a few tools we have found useful in the process of making disciples. They are tools to help you gain understanding of the soil condition of your new disciples and to help see what is in the way.

## **Appendix - Helpful Tools**

How to use the tools contained in this appendix.

Basic Christian doctrine. The first page is a list of what is commonly claimed as orthodox Christian doctrine. Each has verse references to assist you in teaching your disciples. The next page is a simple one page test of doctrine. It is designed to help you understand quickly where to focus your teaching with a new disciple. All the answers to the test should be TRUE. All FALSE answers should be reviewed in light of the scripture referenced.

Next is the preparedness inventory. This is a snapshot guide to the things that should be made a priority in your life if you desire to make disciples that can make disciples. It is useful for you and your disciples.

Next is the disciple record. This form is useful when first starting. It helps to stay on track and set goals.

The Goals and Obstacles worksheet helps you and your disciple to look for obstacles and make a plan to overcome them.

**Basic Christian Doctrine**  
Things Every Christian Should Believe

1. There is only one God – Isaiah. 44:6,8; 45:6,14,18,21,22.
2. The one God is three persons (the Trinity) – Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2.
3. God is love and loves all people – John 3:16; 1 John 4:7-8.
4. God knows all things - 1 John 3:20.
5. God is all-powerful - Psalms 115:3.
6. God is everywhere - Jeremiah 23:23,24.
7. God is sovereign (supreme ruler) - Zechariah 9:14; 1 Timothy 6:15-16.
8. God is a spirit - John 4:24.
9. God created all things – Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 44:24.
10. God has always been God - Psalms 90:2.
11. Jesus is God - John 1:1,14; 8:58; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:6-8.
12. Jesus became a man and was sinless - Philippians 2:5-8; 1 Peter 2:22.
13. Jesus has two natures: divine and human - Colossians 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:5.
14. Jesus was born of a virgin – Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:27; 1 Peter 2:22.
15. Jesus is the only way to God the Father - John 14:6; Matthew 11:27
16. The Holy Spirit is God - Acts 5:3-4.
17. The Holy Spirit is not a force; He is a person - Acts 13:2.
18. The Church is the Body of Christ – Ephesians 1:22-23.
19. The Church is called to make disciples – Matthew 28:18-20.
20. All people have sinned - Romans 3:23, 5:12.
21. Man did not evolve, he was created - Genesis 1:26.
22. Adam and Eve were real people - Genesis 3:20; 5:1; 1 Tim. 2:13.
23. Death entered the world because of Adam's sin - Romans 5:12-15.
24. Sin separates us from God - Isaiah 59:2.
25. Jesus died for all our sins - 1 John 2:2; 2 Corinthians 5:14; 1 Peter 2:24.
26. Jesus' death was a substitution for us - 1 Peter 2:24.
27. Jesus rose from the dead in His physical body - John 2:19-21.
28. Those that reject Jesus go to Hell forever – Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:11-15.
29. Hell is a place of fiery punishment – Matt. 25:41; Rev. 19:20.
30. You are saved by faith through grace, not by works – Eph. 2:8-9.
31. Salvation is a free gift of God - Romans 6:23.
32. You must be born again – John 3:3,5.
33. The saved will be raised from the dead at the rapture - 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17.
34. Jesus will visibly return to earth – Acts 1:11.
35. Jesus' Second Coming will be to judge the nations – Revelation 19:11-16.
36. There will be a final judgment for all people - 2 Peter 3:7.
37. The damned will be thrown into a lake of fire - Revelation 20:15.
38. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire - Revelation 20:10.
39. There will be a new heaven and a new earth - 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1.

## Basic Christian Doctrine Assessment

### Things Every Christian Should Believe

**Each should be answered true or false**

	True	False
There is only one God	___	___
The one God is three persons (the Trinity)	___	___
God is love and loves all people	___	___
God knows all things	___	___
God is all-powerful	___	___
God is everywhere	___	___
God is sovereign (supreme ruler)	___	___
God is a spirit	___	___
God created all things	___	___
God has always been God	___	___
Jesus is God	___	___
Jesus became a man and was sinless	___	___
Jesus has two natures: divine and human	___	___
Jesus was born of a virgin	___	___
Jesus is the only way to God the Father	___	___
The Holy Spirit is God	___	___
The Holy Spirit is not a force; He is a person	___	___
The Church is the Body of Christ	___	___
The Church is called to make disciples	___	___
All people have sinned	___	___
Man did not evolve, he was created	___	___
Adam and Eve were real people	___	___
Death entered the world because of Adam's sin	___	___
Sin separates us from God	___	___
Jesus died for all our sins	___	___
Jesus' death was a substitution for us	___	___
Jesus rose from the dead in His physical body	___	___
Those that reject Jesus go to Hell forever	___	___
Hell is a place of fiery punishment	___	___
You are saved by faith through grace, not by works	___	___
Salvation is a free gift of God	___	___
You must be born again	___	___
The saved will be raised from the dead at the rapture	___	___
Jesus will visibly return to earth	___	___
Jesus' Second Coming will be to judge the nations	___	___
There will be a final judgment for all people	___	___
The damned will be thrown into a lake of fire	___	___
Satan will be cast into the lake of fire	___	___
There will be a new heaven and a new earth	___	___

## **My Preparedness Inventory**

1. I have experienced an encounter with the Resurrected Christ. \_\_\_\_
2. I believe the Great Commission is Relevant Today \_\_\_\_
3. I accept the Great Commission as my orders \_\_\_\_
4. I have received the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_
5. I obey the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_
6. I have developed a personal, specific, and intentional strategy to make disciples \_\_\_\_
7. I have prepared myself to make disciples \_\_\_\_
8. I am living sacrificially so that all of my time and resources are dedicated to building the Kingdom of God \_\_\_\_
9. I am ready to teach discipleship \_\_\_\_
10. I am walking in the Spirit \_\_\_\_
11. I have proven myself faithful in even little things \_\_\_\_
12. I know my spiritual gifts \_\_\_\_
13. I regularly use my spiritual gifts \_\_\_\_
14. I am intentional about making disciples \_\_\_\_
15. I am a disciple \_\_\_\_
16. I have developed my own lessons for making disciples \_\_\_\_
17. I understand the concept of Pastoring the Community \_\_\_\_
18. I am actively engaged in Pastoring my Community \_\_\_\_
19. I know which soil represents me \_\_\_\_
20. I am satisfied that this soil represents who God made me to be \_\_\_\_
21. I have a clear conscience \_\_\_\_
22. I am diligent in ministry \_\_\_\_
23. I preach the Gospel \_\_\_\_
24. I pray regularly \_\_\_\_
25. I communicate with others the information they need in order to pray for me \_\_\_\_
26. I fast regularly \_\_\_\_
27. I am equipped to teach \_\_\_\_
28. I do spiritual warfare \_\_\_\_
29. I am developing my Spiritual gifts \_\_\_\_
30. I am following a vision and I can clearly communicate it to others \_\_\_\_

# Disciple Record

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date Started Discipleship \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Children and Birth Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Conversion \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Baptized in the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_

Spiritual gifts observed \_\_\_\_\_

## Goals



Live victoriously over sin and past

⌚ Understand & practice spiritual disciplines

- ⌚ Fasting
- ⌚ Bible Study
- ⌚ Prayer
- ⌚ Meditation
- ⌚ Journaling

⌚ Living by Faith – Walking in the Spirit

- ⌚ Serving
- ⌚ Evangelizing
- ⌚ Giving
- ⌚ Stewardship




Understands basic doctrine




Faithful (on time, keeps their word)



 **Reproducing**

 **Deny themselves**

 **Loves and serves others**

 **Able to share their personal testimony**

## Goals and Obstacles

**End Goal:** To become a Spirit-transformed follower of Christ - To attain true freedom, which is the ability to choose to follow God without hindrance. To remove satan's strongholds and opportunities in my life. To address any crisis, need, temptation, or lack that severely limits my ability to make choices. To be healed of my past pains. To be cleansed of my iniquity (iniquity is that part of ourselves that desires sin). To know God and who He made me to be.

The following is a list of common obstacles that can prevent you from accomplishing this big picture goal. There are numerous other smaller goals that you may have that could also be blocked by these obstacles. Some of these obstacles are physical and circumstantial. Some of them are spiritual. The result of these obstacles is a life that is chaotic, hopeless, dark, impossible, or crushing. The purpose of this worksheet is to make yourself aware of what is holding you back, and to make a plan of simple steps to make progress in overcoming the obstacles.

**Obstacles (circle all that apply)**

Addiction	Bad decisions	Debt	Mental Illness	Homelessness
Bad environment	No one to trust	Jobless	Educational Needs	Lack skills
Financial chaos	No driver's license	No ID	No transportation	No support
Legal problems	No references	Persistent Sin	No time	Temptations
Worries	Fears	Gang affiliation	Hopeless	No future plan
Unforgiveness or Bitterness	Physical needs (clothes, food)	No independence	Ignorance of God's Truth	Physical Debilitation
Pride	Abuse (physical or emotional; past or present)	Don't know why I exist	Broken Relationships	Impulsiveness (uncontrollable urges, running from one thing to another)
Criminal Record				

List any other obstacles that you are aware of:

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For each obstacle, you will fill out a form. State the obstacle, then establish the goal you are trying to reach that this obstacle blocks. Then you will break that goal down into small steps in order to overcome the obstacle and attain the goal. Each of these steps can be broken down into smaller steps.

**EXAMPLE:**

**Obstacle** - Debt

**Goal that it blocks** - Ability to use finances wisely for needs and the Kingdom

**Additional negative aspects** - Causes stress and depression, cannot obtain loans, potential legal action from those I owe

**Steps** - 1. Establish accurate debt; 2. Establish income and assets; 3. Prioritize debt; 4. Make a budget; 5. Make a payment plan; 6. Begin paying off debts; 7. Become debt free

**Obstacle -** \_\_\_\_\_

**Goal(s) that it blocks -**

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**Additional negative aspects of this obstacle -**

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**Steps to Overcome Obstacle and Achieve Goal:**

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**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Dr. Terry Goodwin is the founder and Executive Director of Sun Ministries. He has been married to his wife, Suzette for 33 years. Together they have raised 5 children. As the empty nest approaches they find themselves ministering together in one of the poorest and most devastated areas of North St. Louis.



I was raised outside the religious system of America. After accepting Christ, I tried to fit into the church system that was presented to me. The more I learned, the more I began to question the practices that I could not find supported in Scripture.

In every generation there are some that hear the voice of God calling them to change the course. This book is a call to change course. It is not a call to veer away from God but rather to throw off the things that have steered the ship of God's church towards the rocks. It is time for us to look at the practices of the past in light of Scripture, to hold fast to what is good and to throw off that which hinders the bride of Christ from being what it was