

## Witness Relationships

I believe everyone here understands the importance of the relationship between the disciple and discipler. I believe we all understand the importance of relationships in ministry in general. Alan Shelby says that, "Ministry runs on the rails of relationships."

Let's be clear. Building a relationship with someone is not the goal of discipleship. However, without a building relationship the goals of establishing the disciple in the worship, word and work of God will not be accomplished. This afternoon, I would like to talk to you about using your relationship as a discipler to influence your disciple to be a disciple who is faithful to the work.

### The relationship power of \_\_\_\_\_: - Philemon 10-17

#### A. Paul was able to \_\_\_\_\_ his faith in Philemon and Onesimus

1. Consider this. Paul's relationship was so strong with these two men that it causes a thief to believe that the person he stole from would forgive him completely, and it caused the person who was robbed to forgive the person who stole completely.
2. Paul's relationship with them both was so \_\_\_\_\_ it helped both men overcome their prejudices of one another and live a life of faith in Jesus Christ.

#### Col. 4:9

*"(Tychicus) With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here."*

3. That is what discipleship is all about. It is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ a relationship in such a way that we make our disciple believe that radical things are normal things.

**Phil. 2:19-22**

*“But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. 20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. 22 But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.”*

**The relationship power of \_\_\_\_\_: – John 21:15-19**

- A. This seems to be a very intimate time between a Discipler and a disciple. And what the Discipler is doing is getting the \_\_\_\_\_ from the disciple to do the work of the ministry. Feed my lambs. Feed my sheep.
- B. I believe there are three conclusions that we can make as it relates to the powerful relationship of the discipler and disciple to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord’s work.

**1. Focus on \_\_\_\_\_**

**1 Cor. 15:58**

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”*

**2 Cor. 7:1**

*“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”*

**2 Peter 3:17-18**

*“Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things (the things written by Paul, in other words the scriptures) before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. 18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”*

**2. Focus on the \_\_\_\_\_**

**Col. 2:5-7**

*“For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. 6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”*

**3. Focus on \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord of the work**

**Matt. 4:19**

*“And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*

**John 21:19**

*“And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*

**John 21:18-19**

*“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. 19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.”*

***a) The Discipler is telling the disciple, “This is going to cost you your life. Follow me.”***

**John 13:37-38**

*“Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake. 38 Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.”*

***a) Here’s the thing. It’s worth giving your life for the work of the Lord.***

**Mark 8:35**

*“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it.”*

