

D2: The Biblical Philosophy of Discipleship

PURPOSE OF THIS PHASE

I. To establish the fact that there is a *biblical pattern* for discipling people.

II. To study the *biblical pattern* of the Lord Jesus Christ working with his disciples.

III. To search our lives to determine how we are progressing in own spiritual walk.

Background: God's Kingdom and Discipleship

I. GOD'S MISSION IS TO ESTABLISH A KINGDOM - Isaiah 9:6-7

- A. God's Kingdom will be fully _____ – vs 6
- B. God's Kingdom will _____ vs 7
- C. God's Kingdom will never _____.- vs 7
- D. God's _____ will ensure this takes place. Vs 7

II. Discipleship is the Heart of (God's) the _____

A. God's Mission is _____

The mission is crystal clear in Matthew 28:18-20 (see I Kings 2:4 – Last words; Matt 28 = Christ's "last words")

- 1. There is only 1 **imperative** in this passage. One finite verb. One overriding command.
- 2. **"teach"**, to disciple -
 - a. Col. 1:21-29 – Paul's explanation of this mandate/command
 - i. Note: vs 21-evangelism, vs28 – discipleship, vs 28 – maturity
- 3. All other verbs are **present participles** (going, baptizing, instructing) and enable this one mandate – to disciple all nations, (any and every person!)
 - We have to go in order to obey the command.
 - Many are good at going but don't have much to say or do once they get

there!

- We are in such a hurry to win the world we'll never do it. We'll never do it because the person we just won we left on the doorstep and Satan stunted their growth so that reproduction did not complete itself.
- Jesus never focused on the size of his congregation – his vision was the world. So, He focused on twelve rough-cut men (like Jewish rednecks).

Discipleship in perfection!.

4. That means that evangelism no more completes the responsibility of the Great Commission than having a baby completes the responsibility of parenting.

KEY: Winning souls is not the fulfillment of the commission – it is just the beginning!

Our goal in discipleship is...

John 20:21 – "...as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."

B. God's Mission is _____

1: GOD'S PLAN FOR FULFILLING HIS KINGDOM INVOLVES DISPENSATIONS

- a. The word *dispensation* comes from the same Greek word which is also translated *steward* in 1 Corinthians 4:1-2.
- b. Throughout history, God deals with humanity and gives various responsibilities to various individuals. There is a definite pattern established by God in his mission to establish His Kingdom, as well as a precise counter plan of attack on the part of Satan
2 Cor 2:11 – Lest satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.
- c. From Genesis to Revelation you see the counterfeiter countering against everything God does.
- d. Mankind is given a three-fold commission by God in Genesis 1:26-28. God's very first words to man were, "...be fruitful, multiply, and replenish..." followed by "...subdue.."

That commandment is:

- **Bear fruit;** produce life. (**Evangelism**) Reproduce the life they had received from God.
- **Multiply;** that's fruit that remains. (**Discipleship** *John 15:16*)
- **Replenish;** the entire world. (**World missions**)
- **Subdue it;** have dominion over – The multiplication was to continue until the entire world had been filled with human beings to worship and praise God. That's the difference between soul winning and discipleship.

God has NEVER changed this plan!

- a. **The Dispensation of Innocence** - _____ (**Genesis 1-3**)
 1. Adam and Eve are put in the garden for the purpose of having children and begin the process of populating God's Kingdom.
 2. Before they have children, they sin. 2 Corinthians 11:1-4; 1 Tim 2:12-14.

3. This was crucial, because now their children would not be born with a sinless nature.
4. God judge's man's failure by removing him from the garden. Genesis 3:23
5. Satan's device in this dispensation is one of deception.

b. The Dispensation of Conscience - _____ (Genesis 4-8)

1. Adam and Eve's descendants are now beginning to multiply outside the garden. Genesis 6:1
2. However, before they complete this phase, they sin. Genesis 6:2
3. This leads to a race of giants being born to them. Genesis 6:3 – 4
4. Satan's device in this dispensation is one of corruption. Genesis 6:11-12
5. God judge's man's failure by sending the flood to destroy the earth. Genesis 7-8

c. The Dispensation of Human Government - _____ (Genesis 9-11)

1. Adam's descendants (through Noah) are given the same commission to be fruitful, multiply, and replenish. Genesis 9:1-2
2. After several hundred years, they are ready to replenish. Gen 10
3. Once again, sin enters into the picture as they refuse to leave the plain of Shinar. Genesis 11:1-2
4. Satan's device in this dispensation is one of rebellion. Genesis 10: 8-10, 11: 4
5. God once again judges man's sin by confounding the language of the people, forcing them to scatter abroad. Genesis 11: 7-9

Abraham is given a similar charge by God in Genesis 12:1-3: *I will make of thee a great nation ... and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.* The next three dispensations reflect this.

d. The Dispensation of the _____ (Gen. 12:3, Gen. 22:17) - Be Fruitful

1. Abraham is promised by God to have a seed that compares to the stars of heaven in multitude. Genesis 15:1-8
Isaac - Gen. 26:4
Jacob - Gen. 28:3
2. Satan tries to keep the patriarchs from bearing children. Genesis 11:30, 25:21, 29:31
Sarah (mother of Isaac), Rebekah (mother of Jacob) and Rachel (mother of Joseph) were all barren.
3. Satan's device of deception is implemented again. Genesis 16:1-3, 27:35, 29:25-26
4. The house of Jacob is forced to leave the land and go into Egypt. Genesis 46:1-7

e. The Dispensation of the _____ - – Multiply

1. The sons of Jacob are multiplying, however they do not possess the land, as they are bondmen in Egypt. Exodus 1: 7
2. God uses Moses to deliver Israel (Exodus 12) and give them the law. Exodus 20- Leviticus
3. God uses Joshua to bring Israel in the land, and then He uses the judges to begin to drive out the enemies and secure the land. Joshua-Judges
4. Through the reign of David, God gives Israel a King to bring peace to its borders. 1 Kings 4:24
5. Israel is now ready to build the temple and reach the world for the Lord.

Deuteronomy 12:10,11; I Kings 8:41-43

6. Once again Satan uses the corruption of the world to reach Israel. I Kings 11:1-8
7. God judges Israel's failure by sending them into captivity. 2 Kings 17, 24

f. The Dispensation of the _____ – Replenish

1. God picks up where Israel went off track by setting the Lord Jesus Christ on the throne of David. Zechariah 14: 8-9
2. The temple is built, and Israel reaches the world. Ezekiel 43:1-6, Zechariah 14:16-19
3. However, after 1000 years of peace on earth, Satan goes to lead the nations in rebellion against the King. Revelation 20:7-9
4. God judge's man's rebellion one last time. Revelation 20:10-15
5. God's eternal kingdom is ready to begin. Revelation 21, 22

The church is given its three-fold Commission by the Lord in Matthew 28:18-20

7. The Dispensation of Grace - Be Fruitful, Multiply and Replenish

God's original purpose has never changed. The mandate Adam and Noah received physically has been given to the New Testament believer spiritually.

1. _____ is how the church today is fruitful. Note: Satan attacks with deception. 2 Corinthians 4:1-6
2. _____ is how the church today multiplies.
3. _____ is how the church is to replenish the earth.

Note: Today Satan tries to keep people from being sent out of the church. Eventually people leave, but not the way God intended. This results in confusion as people can no longer communicate with one another. As a whole, the church will fail in this mission, and will be judged by God at the judgment seat of Christ.

REMEMBER: GOD'S PLAN FOR FULFILLING HIS KINGDOM INVOLVES DISPENSATIONS
And secondly.....

2. GOD'S PLAN ALSO INVOLVES HIS SON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST - Titus 1:2

- a. At least two things were accomplished at the first coming of Jesus Christ.
 1. _____ in man of the lost image of God - Col. 3:10. This was the purpose of his death, burial, and resurrection. Luke 19:10
 2. The _____ of 12 men to take His message to the world - John 4:34. John 17:6-8

3. His first coming was concluded by the commissioning of his disciples.

- a. This "Great Commission" is exactly the same as Adam's commission (Gen 1:28)
Matt 28:18-20; John 15:16.
- b. God's plan has never changed. (**The consistency of God.**)
 - The physical kingdom will not be established until the physical King returns to this earth.

- Meanwhile, our mandate is to bear fruit through evangelism to multiply that fruit through discipleship and to reach every creature on earth with the message of the gospel.
- Discipleship is the very heart of God's mission!

So discipleship is clear, consistent, and thirdly:

C. God's Mission is _____

- The implications of God's mandate are overwhelming and should consume the total focus of our lives and those in our churches.
- Our mandate is to make disciples of all nations.
- To disciple all nations is nothing short of the same hard work of parenting.

1. Discipleship is NOT an ACTIVITY..... It is an _____

2 Cor 12:15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.

2 Cor 8:8-9 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to **prove** the **sincerity** of your love. 9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

John 15:12-13 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

a. Not MOTION but MEANING – Real – Authentic – Genuine -Sacrifice – Giving

2. Discipleship is NOT a PROGRAMit is a _____ OF MINISTRY

2 Cor 6:1-10 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. 2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

3 Giving no offence in anything, that the ministry be not blamed:

4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true;

9 As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.
16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

17 For the law was given by Moses, but **grace and truth** came by Jesus Christ.
a. Full of GRACE and TRUTH – The HEART BEAT of Jesus Christ
1. Woman at well vs Pharisees
2. Lepers vs the Rich Young Ruler
3. Blind men VS Miracle seekers and profit makers
b. Discipleship isn't a hard covered book it is the "Heart beat" of a believer!

3. Discipleship is NOT a Series of LESSONS...It is a _____ !

Phil 3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

Col 2:6-7 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.

Eph 4:1-3 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,
2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;
3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Eph 4:11-16 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:
14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

John 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have **finished the work** which thou gavest me to do. (Finish the Life God has given to me)

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; **as I have loved you**, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. (Follow my walk – Love one another)

a. Discipleship isn't WORDS, it is a DAILY WALK

4. Discipleship is NOT EDUCATION ONLY....it is _____ and

Phil 2:3-4 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Romans 14:19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

a. Consider the final word of the Lord before the crucifixion

1. John 14:1-4 – promise and care
2. John 14: 26-27 – The Comforter
3. John 16:33 - These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

b. It is not a DEGREE but a DESIRE (to edify and exhort)

5. Discipleship is NOT JUST TEACHING....it is LIFE _____

2 Tim. 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Phil 4:9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

I Cor 4:15-16 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.
16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

I Cor 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

a. Reproducing your life in someone else

1. Examples of the 12
2. Nicodemus

b. It is NOT EXPOSITION but rather EXHIBITION – EXHIBIT CHRIST IN YOU!

6. Discipleship is not a MANUAL....it is a _____, your heart to the heart of another

2 Cor 3:1-3 Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?

2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us,

written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

I Cor 9:2 If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.

I Peter 4:8-11 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. 9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging. 10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

- a. We must utilize MINISTRY to build MEN, not MEN to build a MINISTRY
- b. Ministry = minister = serve, humility, selflessness

7. Discipleship is NOT a RAPID GROWTH FORMULA...It is a LONG LASTING

I Thes 2:7-8 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: 8 So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

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.

John 14:15-18 – The Comforter = a Lasting relationship

- a. Not a Microwave but a campfire
 - 1. Time to build a small flame, then tend it carefully, add wood, leave it for a while, but then go check on it, put more wood, stir it up a little, re-ignite the flames.

D. Discipleship is the practical process that leads to CONFORMITY to the image of Christ.

Our commission has a single objective: to grow into the image of the Lord. It has to do with our standing vs. our state and making our state on earth match our standing in Christ.

- a. **The mandate** is clear: to disciple all nations. But what is the meaning of this mandate? The answer is found in a study of the word, disciple.
- b. **The meaning:**
 - Mathetes: the **word for a learner**; to become a pupil or enroll as a student
 - A disciple is someone coming to Jesus to learn from him
- c. **Its significance:**
 - Some form of the word found over 230 times in the Gospels.

- Some form found over 25 times in Acts.
 - The word is found NOT ONCE in the epistles – too glaring to be a mere coincidence
 - Instead, “disciple” is replaced by another word in the epistles – “saint,” found 57 times
 - A disciple is one who learns, whereas a saint one who is set apart, holy or sanctified
- d. **The lesson:** One is a disciple in order to learn how to live like the saint he has been made in Christ Jesus. So, the objective of discipleship is to grow into the image of Christ.
- e. **Its implications:** Discipleship is a process that can be measured by four key indicators.

These three goals are what separate us from being a discipleship “program” and being curriculum driven.

1. To establish the believer in the WORSHIP of God through a daily relationship with God through prayer and the Bible.
2. To establish the believer in the WORD of God by building a relationship that goes beyond a Bible study.
3. To establish the believer in the WORK of the Lord as a participant and not a spectator (attempting and not just attending), investing his or her spiritual gifts in the ministry of the local church.

CONCLUSION: One becomes a disciple to learn how to live like the “saint” that he is. Therefore...

E. Discipleship is a process that has both a beginning and an ending. (Do not expect saints if you do not disciple.)

- a. This is another reason why discipleship cannot be a mere Bible study course.
1. The characteristic of our age – 2 Timothy 3:7, is to go from one conference, seminar and study to another.
2 Tim 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
 2. We have many “pastors of programs”, not many “pastors of people”
 3. And because we do not live 2 Timothy 2:2, we are overworked and ineffective. We gauge success in attendance and tithes instead of ministry and mission.
 4. How does one proceed from conversion to living like a saint in your church? Can you measure the process? Can you tell me when it has begun and ended?
 5. This is of vital importance if we believe that ministry centers on discipleship and discipleship is the heart of God’s mission.
 6. Discipleship is hard work, just like raising children. We cannot stop with evangelism and church-building any more than we can just bring babies home from the hospital and forget about them.
It is the heart of the mandate and...

III. Discipleship is the Heart of the _____ -

Discipleship is the measure of our success in this dispensation. By discipleship you can measure the two goals of conformity to Christ and glory to God in three areas: in the church, in the world, and in the individual believer. So let's talk about how

A. It is the Measure of Success in Churches

B. It is the Measure of Success in Evangelism of the Lost

C. It is the Measure of Success in the Individual Believer's Life

What does a fruitful discipleship ministry look like?

Next: Examining the biblical pattern for discipleship ministry.

The Biblical Pattern of Discipleship

I. The importance of the ministry of *biblical discipleship* and its relationship to other ministry goals.

A. There are five _____ in Christian ministry.

1. _____

This is the Go ye of the Great Commission. You cannot disciple a lost man, so first you must go and win him. The emphasis is on our responsibility to go and exert ourselves to evangelize the lost people of the world.

It's easier to teach the Bible than preach the gospel.

We have to win them first!

Recognize:

- People are born sinners and destined to perish, Rom.3:23; 5:12
- People must be delivered from darkness and forgiven, Col.1:12-14
- Jesus Christ came to save sinners, Luke 19:10; 1 Tim.1:15
- Christians are to give the gospel to the lost, Rom.10:13-15; 2 Cor.4:3-6

Objective: Lead people to Christ and baptize them.

But cannot leave them to grow in their own.

God has given them purpose and has a plan for them. (Eph. 2:10)

2. **Establishment of** _____

This is the significance of the instruction “baptizing them,” because new converts are brought into the local assembly.

- Baptism is one of the _____ elements of discipleship
- The Christian life was never intended to be lived in isolation, just as no member of Israel was ever intended to live outside of the camp
- True discipleship cannot _____ take place outside of the local church.

Understand:

- The first church was established in Jerusalem, Acts 2:41-47
- The gospel went out, people saved and churches were formed,

Acts 15:41; 16:5

- A local assembly of believers called a body, 1 Cor.12:13-27
- Eph. **4:11-16**- God's plan for this age is the local church.

Priority of a family: edify, equip, and work together

Church has the ability to prepare people to minister in work

Church body can reproduce other church bodies

3. **Preparing** _____

- A *disciple* is a student, learner, follower
- The objective of discipleship is to equip believers to live Christ's life on this earth.
- “Teaching all nations, baptizing them” – this is the process by which we transfer our life by passion in our relationship with God to others.
- Jesus called out twelve disciples early in his ministry, Matt.10:1-4
- Converts in Antioch were disciples called “Christians”, **Acts 11:25-26**
- Jesus prepared his disciples to teach future disciples, Matt.28:19-20
- II Tim. 2:2 - The multiplication factor.
- Our mission is to make learners of all nations by teaching or discipling them

We are saved to serve the living God

Jesus started with twelve common country boys and gave them the most significant mission on earth. Jesus gave them the resources to accomplish His plan.

4. _____ **our lives to be like Jesus Christ**

- After salvation the child of God must grow in Jesus Christ, Rom.8:29
- Grow to be perfect (complete, mature, full age), Luke 6:40; Col.4:12
- Grow to walk in and be led by the Holy Spirit, Gal.5:16-18, 25
- Finish the work that God began in me at salvation, Phil.1:6; Col.4:17
- The goal of discipleship - **Col. 1:27-28**.

This is the end result of discipleship, teaching to observe all things whatsoever the Lord has commanded us.

“My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.”
(Galatians 4:19)

God predestined you to grow in Christ after salvation.

Mankind desires to reach perfection and utopia environments by means of science exploration, medicine, cloning.

Man seeks retirement, shorter work week, and more benefit.

Only Jesus can perfect you and give you true peace!

5. **Bringing _____ to God**

This is implied in verse 20 with the phrase, unto the end of the world

- Our purpose is to bring glory to God; **Isa.43:7, 21; 1 Cor.1:31**
- In whatsoever we do, do all to the glory of God, **1 Cor.10:31**
- To praise and give thanks to God, Psa.100:4; Col.3:17
- Eccl. 12:13- Our reason for existence - I Cor. 6:19-20

God created you for Himself for His pleasure

When time and sin end, God’s kingdom will be comprised of people who practiced their free will to trust God and His Word.

The connection between the commission and the goal of glorifying God is clear from Rom 16:25-27

“Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting do, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.”
(Romans 16:25-27)

B. The importance of discipleship in relation to the other four goals.

All five of these goals of Christianity are vitally important, and none can be ignored, but discipleship holds the key position.

1. Discipleship forms the link between the first two (quantitative) goals and the last two (qualitative) goals. Goals which cannot be measured.
 - People who make a profession of faith, who are baptized or join a church can be numbered, **Acts 2:41; 4:4**

- Local church bodies can be counted, **Acts 9:31**
 - Difficult to know how many people are growing in Christ and how many Christians are actually serving and walking with God. Most churches are focused on immediate results, not on long-term growth.
 - Goals 4 & 5, there is no external unit of measure for the last two goals, therefore most churches ignore them.
Pre-occupation with numbers, nickels and noses will diminish importance of discipleship.
Quantity will not produce quality. Quality will result in quantity.
2. Discipleship provides people with all the tools necessary to carry out their ministry and bring glory to God.
- Jesus was not satisfied with just having the disciples believe in him.
 - Jesus had a plan to teach and prepare them to minister and glorify God.
 - People must grow spiritually just as they grow physically to maturity
Jesus devoted most of His ministry to His disciples.
First(s) years of persons life are important to future.
Personal attention and investment
Jesus only lost one disciple
Other eleven served to make disciples and prepare them to carry on.

These Five Goals Can Be Illustrated By The Example Of Raising Children.

1. Evangelism - Bearing fruit through the new birth - a baby is born.
2. Establishment of churches - That baby is brought home and placed within the family unit.
Evangelism and church attendance are vital, but true Christianity does not stop there. Just as family life does not end with simply bringing home the baby.
3. Making disciples - teaching and training new converts - The child is taught the basic principles of life.
4. Conforming our life to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ - The child grows up to be "just like dad."
5. Bringing God the glory - Prov. 17:6 - "Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers." Prov. 10:1, 15:20, 23:24-25, 29:3

II. The _____ to the ministry of discipleship and how to guard against them and overcome them.

A. The improper division between _____ (spiritual leaders) and _____ (congregation)

- (1) This began after the death of the Apostles and the following generation. The 3rd & 4th generations became apathetic allowing some false doctrine to enter the church
(2) Doctrine of the Nicolaitans was setting a priest over the laity, Rev.2:6, 15 They lifted

themselves as the final authority. God hates this mindset and practice!

(3) This philosophy forces the common Christian to receive a formal religious education (outside the local church) before becoming a spiritual leader

(4) Key: God gave his Holy Spirit to empower every believer and gave us the Bible to be understood by every Christian in the Church

B. _____ studies and debates

- **Many people honor human thought and wisdom above the simple faith needed to understand God and His Word, 1 Cor.1:19-31**
- Some Christians are unwilling to be discipled because they value being self taught and forming their own conclusions.
- People who doubt the Word of God and attack its teachings are skeptics (we'll always have those!)
- We don't have to defend the Word of God but just live it out. The Bible defends itself
- Key: find faithful people who desire to learn the Word and feed them. 2 Tim.2:2
DISCIPLESHIP DOES NOT AND CANNOT WORK W/ UNFAITHFUL PEOPLE
People don't understand the bible or refuse to believe bible
Prov 23:9 - Don't speak to a fool, Luke 23:8-9, Jesus set example.
Col 2:8-10 - Beware of those that attempt to spoil you with philosophy, traditions, and science.
1 Cor 2:2-5 - Preach Jesus Christ – keep it simple
1 Pet 2:11-15 - Blameless life will put to silence the ignorance of foolish men
Don't give skeptics a reason to reject Jesus Christ.
2 Cor 3:1-3 - Let your ministry speak for you - God will defend his written word.

C. The _____ movement

- Definition: the attempt to reincarnate the Apostles ministry (Book of Acts - a transitional book!)
- They emphasize the _____ miracles rather than teaching _____ principles that guided those experiences
- Jesus Christ gave his Jewish Apostles the power of signs and miracles to continue to reach the Jews who specifically required signs, Matt.12:38; 1 Cor.1:22
- The Charismatic Movement is often driven by emotions and experiences; less upon the absolute, complete and perfect word of God
- Key: rightly divide the Word and judge everything in light of the Word. 2 Tim.2:15; 2 Pet.1:19-21
Human emotions and experiences do not supersede fact
Unknown tongues, healing services slain in the spirit
Leadership misapplies scripture, causing confusion - 1 Cor 14:22
 1. That Holy Spirit comes and goes, determined by person's faith.
 2. That Christians sometimes need a second filling of Holy Spirit
 3. That if miracles are not present then person lacks faith
 4. That Christian can lose their salvation.Reality and reason must supersede emotions or feelings

D. _____

- Definition: a system which establishes “rules” or “tradition” to measure spirituality. External laws or requirements
- The Pharisee’s put laws and tradition over the Word of God, Mark 7:1-9
Church leadership is NOT to be set above the Word of God.
- The book of Galatians is written to destroy the Law and tradition in the church, Gal.2:18-21
- The church leadership is to lead and equip the body to reach the lost world, not to isolate from the world
- Jesus Christ has liberated the Christian to serve God, Gal.2:4; 5:1
- Key: operate by higher laws:
 - by the law of the Spirit of life, Rom.8:1-4
 - the law of love, Gal.5:13-14
 - the law of liberty, Jam.1:25

Many churches hold on to the Old Testament law. Moral laws are valid.

There is a difference between Old Testament and liberty

Lordship of Jesus Christ is the key.

Jesus Christ fulfilled the Old Testament law - Rom 8:3-4

Jesus Christ redeemed us from the curse of law - Gal 3:13

The external do’s and don’ts are unnecessary

E. _____

- Definition: establishing a priesthood to direct people in formal worship
- Manifested in our lives when we hold leaders responsible for our spiritual growth and our personal victory
- Discipleship stops when your application of God’s Word and your growth is someone else’s responsibility
- Pastors and leaders are responsible to teach, guide, protect and be an example to the congregation, Acts 20:28-31
- Key: realize that every Christian is to grow in faith and minister Jesus Christ to others, 1 John 4:17; 2 Cor.5:17-21
Catholic Church finds its identity in the symbols, rituals
Jesus Christ is the only mediator- 1 Tim 2:5
The external symbols connected with the priest and cathedral
We as believers are part of a royal priesthood - 1 Pet 2:9-10
KEY: We bring people to Jesus. We don’t stand in the way.

III. **The results of following this biblical pattern of discipleship.**

A. **The example of the Lord Jesus Christ**

- Jesus selected a core of twelve men
- As they grew, Jesus selected 70 additional disciples, Luke 10:1
- Prior to Pentecost, the nucleus was 120 – Acts 1:15
- 3,000 were saved at Pentecost, Acts 2:41
- 5,000 men believed, Acts 4:4
- Christians accused of turning the world upside down within 25 years, Acts 17:6
- All Asia Minor heard the Word, Acts 19:10 (without TV, radio, brochures, cell phones, computers, cars, airlines)

Jesus focused on investing in sincere, faithful followers.
Yet, he was always taking opportunities to reach the needy, the sick, and the weary
Great commission involves saving the lost and training the saved

B. The chart comparing evangelism (addition) to discipleship (multiplication).

If Jesus Christ had only evangelized.

Years	3	6	9	12	15
12 converts per 3 yrs	12	24	36	48	60
12 converts per day	13,140	26,280	39,420	52,560	65,700

Evangelism alone equals addition.

Jesus Christ disciplined and trained leaders.

Years	3	6	9	12	15
12 disciples trained to teach others	1 x 12 12	12 x 12 144	144 x 12 1,728	1,728 x 12 20,736	20,736 x 12 248,832

- Started with a core group of 12.
- As their number grew, he selected 70 more and used the 12 to help train the 70. This fueled even more growth in the 12.
- By Pentecost, the nucleus was 120 - Acts 1:15
- 3,000 were saved at Pentecost.
- Membership of 5000 men by Acts 4:4.
- Turned the world upside down - Acts 17:6 - within only 25 years!
- Acts 19:10 - All of Asia heard the Word - without TV, radio, telephones, airplanes, cars, or fax machines.

Evangelism plus discipleship = multiplication.

This is the Great Commission for the New Testament Church

C. The example of the Apostle Paul

- He understood the process of discipling spiritual generations, 2 Tim.2:2
- Paul taught disciples in the Corinthian Church, Acts 18:11
- Paul had trained disciples at Ephesus, Acts 20:17-20
- Paul taught the disciples at Thessalonica, 1 Thes.2:4-11
- Paul disciplined Timothy during his 2nd missionary journey, Acts 16:1-4
- Paul disciplined Titus and worked with him in ministry, Tit.1:4-5
- Paul commissioned Timothy and Titus to ordain elders for the purpose of multiplying disciples, 1 Tim.3:1; Titus 1:5

D. The Great Commission can be fulfilled by any local church.

God has equipped us to do so, but the key is every Christian growing as a disciple and becoming involved in ministry.

- 1 Cor.12:12-27
- 2 Cor.5:18-20
- Eph.4:11-16

ILLUSTRATION: The plan for discipleship is seen as a training that Christ gave to His two groups of disciples – the twelve and the seventy

There are eleven areas of similarity in discipling of 12 and of 70

1. He taught them the evil of _____.
 - a. With the twelve He healed the centurion's son. Matt. 8:5-13; Lk 7:1-10
 - b. With the seventy He taught them the parable of the Good Samaritan. Lk 10:25-37
2. He demonstrated the _____ of women. Everywhere, Christianity has liberated women.
 - a. With the twelve, He received a sinful woman. Lk 7:36-50
 - b. With the seventy, He permitted Mary of Bethany to sit with the men to study. Lk 10:38-42
Both of these, along with John 4 went against culture.
3. He taught the principles of truth and _____.
 - a. To the twelve, Matt 6
 - b. To the seventy, Luke 11:1-13
4. He taught them the conflict between the kingdom of _____ and the kingdom of _____ as demonstrated by His power over demons
 - a. To the twelve, Matt 12:22-33; Mark 3:22-30; Lk 11:14-26
 - b. To the seventy, Luke 11:14-26
5. He taught against the religious _____.
 - a. To the twelve, Matt 12:33-45
 - b. To the seventy, Lk 12:1-2
6. He taught them _____. He taught about the kingdom. Its growth and its condition until the second coming of Christ
 - a. To the twelve, Matt 13
 - b. To the seventy, Lk 12:35-13:21
7. He taught them not to _____. Necessary for any disciple to confront his culture
 - a. To the twelve, Mat 10:26-31
 - b. To the seventy, Lk 12:4-12
8. He taught them that he would cause division between men bringing not peace but a sword
 - a. To the twelve, Matt 10:34-36
 - b. To the seventy, Lk 12:49-53
9. He challenged tradition where it _____ the Bible. He had conflict with the Pharisees concerning their tradition
 - a. To the twelve, Matt 15:1-20; 16:1-12
 - b. To the seventy, Lk 14:1-11; 15:1-32
10. He called them to sacrifice and _____ self.
 - a. To the twelve, Matt 16:13-28; Mk 8:27-9:1
 - b. To the seventy, Lk 14:25-35
11. He taught them the causes of sin and the need to restore the sinner. Discipleship comes full-circle and leads right back to evangelism. This is the only proper motive for soul winning. Discipleship is on 2

levels: knowledge and life; instruction and practice. The first level is teaching; the second is experience. The first level is learning; the second is being.

- a. To the twelve, Mat 18:21-35
- b. To the seventy, Lk 17:1-10

ILLUSTRATION: The Old Testament Picture of Discipleship.

I. THE EXODUS FROM EGYPT - Exodus 1-12

- A. Israel is in Egypt in the first portion of the book of Exodus and pictures a lost man still in bondage to the world. Exodus 1
- B. Moses is given the task to go and deliver the children of Israel and in so doing plays the role of an evangelist.
- C. God gives Moses the message of His will to Israel. Exodus 6:6-8
 1. *"I am the Lord and I will bring you out from under the burden of the Egyptians and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you..."* (REDEMPTION)
 2. *"And I will take you to me for a people and I will be to you a God..."* (RELATIONSHIP)
 3. *"And I will bring you in unto the land... and I will give it you for an heritage..."* (REWARD)
- D. God judges the gods of Egypt with the plagues, signifying the need for Satan's stronghold to be loosed before salvation can occur. Exodus 7-11

II. THE CROSSING OF THE RED SEA – Exodus 13-19

- A. Having been delivered from Egypt, Israel is pursued by Pharaoh; just as Satan attacks a new Christian after salvation. Exodus 13
- B. God comes to the rescue of Israel in a mighty way, similar to the way He does on behalf of the young believer. Exodus 14
- C. Israel faces several trials early in their journey to Mt. Sinai. Exodus 14:10-20, 15:23-26, 16:1-15, 17:1-7
 1. Each trial pictures the situations God allows to come into one's life after salvation.
 2. Each trial is met by murmuring, as is usually the case for a young Christian.
 3. Each trial is solved miraculously by God to prove to Israel (and the believer) His sovereignty.
- D. Moses pictures a good evangelist who does not leave the new convert to fend for himself.

III. THE CAMPING AT MOUNT SINAI - Exodus 20-Leviticus 27

- A. Israel, like a young disciple, is now ready to get some clear instruction from God.
- B. However, before this takes place, God meets with Moses (the discipler) to give him a "word". Exodus 20-24
- C. God also gives Moses "the pattern" for Israel's future relationship with God, just as He gives the discipler insight into the kind of relationship He wants with the disciple. Exodus 25-30
- D. God expects the discipler to then build according to this "pattern" in the life of the disciple. Exodus 31-40
- E. God gives the disciple the Holy Spirit (pictured by Bazaleel) to be the best workman he

can be. Exodus 31:1-5

- F. There are two major works Moses is accomplishing at Mount Sinai:
 - 1. He is giving Israel the Word of God, just as a discipler attempts to establish the disciple in the Word. Exodus 20-40
 - 2. He is giving Israel the guidelines for the Levitical priesthood, similarly to the way a mature Christian attempts to establish a young Christian in the work of the ministry. Leviticus 1-27
- G. There are two major lateral relationships Moses is trying to emphasize to Israel.
 - 1. The relationship of individuals to other individuals. (This pictures the discipler trying to establish the disciple in the fellowship of other Christians.)
 - 2. The relationship of individuals to the congregation of Israel. (This pictures the discipler attempting to establish the disciple in the structure of the local church.)

IV. THE SOJOURNING IN THE WILDERNESS - Numbers 1-13

- A. Lessons and principles learned at Mount Sinai are being lived out continually. Numbers 1-9
- B. Israel, like the discipler, is now ready to move on toward the promised land. Numbers 10:11-13, 33-36
- C. During this time true spirit-filled leaders are beginning to be developed. Numbers 11:16
- D. Moses, like a good discipler, is delegating responsibility to allow the maturing process to continue. Numbers 11:24-30
- E. Note: Just like there is a mixed multitude with Israel, there are also people in the discipleship process that Satan uses to discourage the heart of the disciple. Numbers 11:1-6

V. THE CROSSING INTO THE PROMISED LAND - Numbers 13-Deuteronomy 34

- A. Israel, like a maturing Christian, must make a decision to take that step of faith to begin to truly walk in the promises of God. Numbers 13
- B. Like many Christians, however, the majority of Israel does not want to take that step because of the obstacles. Number 14
- C. Only a few, like Caleb and Joshua, are willing to put their faith into action. Numbers 14:6 - 10
- D. Just like Israel, sometimes in a church the choices of others can affect the life of a maturing Christian. Numbers 14:26 - 39
- E. Here are the realities of the decision to cross over into the promised land.
 - 1. Most people never make it. Numbers 14 - 19
 - 2. Some people do not want to cross, but they will still "go with the program". Numbers 32
 - 3. A few people do decide to trust God and take that step. Deuteronomy 4:1
- F. Moses, like the discipler, cannot take Israel (the disciple) any further - they must learn to walk with "Joshua".

VI. THE POSSESSING OF THE PROMISED LAND - Joshua-2 Samuel

- A. Israel crosses the Jordan River, in the same way a believer crosses that point of no return in his spiritual journey. Joshua 1 - 4
- B. Israel, like a believer, comes to realize some pretty important truths before the battles begin. Joshua 5

1. They realize where they have come from, and that God has rolled away that reproach. (Joshua 5:1 - 9)
 2. They realize the "manna" has ceased, and they are going to have to eat of the "fruit of the land". (Joshua 5:10 - 12)
 3. They realize that if victory is to occur, they need to be on the Lord's side. (Joshua 5:12 - 15)
- C. Israel, like a Christian, gets some major victories. Joshua 6
- D. But sometimes, when sin goes unconfessed, defeats are experienced. Joshua 7
- E. When fighting the enemy, Israel and the believer learn some important truths. Joshua 9 – 24
1. Compromise is not an option. (Joshua 9)
 2. Some battles must be fought before others. (Joshua 10)
 3. One cannot be slack in doing God's work. (Joshua 18)
- F. Israel, like many Christians, needs to exercise proper judgment and discernment, or else forward progress is all but stopped. Judges 1-21
- G. The issue of God's final authority and lordship must be forever settled; if spiritual maturity is to be achieved.
1. If the wrong king is on the throne, the land can never be secured. 1 Samuel
 2. If the right king is on the throne, the land will be not only secured from within, but also protected from without. 2 Samuel
- H. Israel, like the Christian, needs to kill the remnant of the giants. 2 Samuel 21
- A. Israel is finally established as a nation, in the same way a believer is now spiritually mature. 1 Kings 2:46
- B. At this point, God has dominion over both Israel and the believer. 1 Kings 4:24
- C. God has established peace on all sides round about Israel, in the same way He does with the mature Christian. 1 Kings 4:24
- D. People are looking to the Christian for answers, just as the world comes to Israel to hear God's wisdom. 1 Kings 4:34
- E. Israel, like the believer, is at rest, and is now ready to build. 1 Kings 5-6
- F. God's "temple" is furnished, and Israel (like the believer) is ready to reach the world for the lord. 1 Kings 8:41-43
- G. The true mission now begins.