

Utilizing Cost of Discipleship

Cost of Discipleship is a simple concept that we can see from Scripture. Jesus lets us know that in order to be a true follower of his certain considerations must be made and “ACCOUNTED” for. You can’t set off to accomplish biblical ministry without first **Counting the Cost**.

Luke 14:26-28 *If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?*

A more challenging task is in the application and implementation of Cost of Discipleship in the church. C.O.D is not something that we throw at the wall and hope it sticks... It takes strategic planning and constant inspection in order to produce the result we are all looking for.

Pastors have been given a gift and have a responsibility. This gift should be used (according to Ephesians):

Ephesians 4:12 *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

The biblical command to make disciples something we should be serious about. The heartbeat of God is missions and world evangelization; and therefore, the work of making disciples should be the very heartbeat of the local church and where pastors spend most of their time and energy. Without discipleship we lose ground in our outreach efforts, which weakens our evangelistic presence in our communities. If evangelism and discipleship come to a halt church death will follow:

Judges 2:8-11 *And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old. 9 And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the mount of Ephraim, on the north side of the hill Gaash. 10 And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. 11 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:*

What Is Cost of Discipleship

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A. What it means to be a _____ of Jesus Christ (a disciple)

1. As a pastor you must be the _____ of a Christ follower in your church

B. Discipleship is more than an _____ exercise

1. _____ people the word—equipping them with knowledge—**AND** how to go _____ the work (applying the academics).
2. Academics alone will create a _____ discipleship ministry.
(*Judges 2:8-11*)

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What Cost of Discipleship is Not

A. Cost of Discipleship is not just a _____ to funnel people through

1. Quickly running through a program is effective for _____ in the life of a disciple

B. Cost of Discipleship is not a _____ for Spiritually _____ disciple makers

1. _____ what you _____
2. Expect a certain level of _____ from disciple makers

C. Cost of Discipleship is not just a _____ to be checked

Discipleship is a lifelong process and is therefore not a task to be completed as a next step.

D. Cost of Discipleship is not a class where you _____ people into being disciplined

1. Forcing Spiritual growth will create _____ in the heart

What Cost of Discipleship is:

A. The Cost of Discipleship is a tool for _____ potential followers of Christ

B. Cost of Discipleship is a tool for evaluating commitments to the ministry of _____

2 Corinthians 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

C. Cost of Discipleship is a tool to filter the _____ from the _____

1 Corinthians 3:1-4

Cost of Discipleship must meet God's expectations and not mine

A. God's _____ and _____

The 3 Goals of Discipleship

Jesus gives 3 calls to follow:

- Come and see (John 1:37-51). A call to FOLLOW CHRIST
- Come and serve (Matthew 4:18-22). A call to LEARN MINISTRY
- Come and sacrifice (Mark 8:34). A call to SACRIFICE SELF—So, this shows how the dynamics of the discipleship process changed with their growth.

These goals work to meet God’s expectations, and is helpful for us to understand that each phase builds upon another—as a person grows, Spiritually, God expects and requires more from the disciple

When you talk about discipleship, we mean this whole process – adding all levels listed in 2 Peter 1 (faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, etc.). OHBC has 3 phases of discipleship ministry to guide the disciple through these 7 levels.



The goals that we are covering in this session are specifically for PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP (AKA Discipleship 1). This is the beginning phase, intended to verify the disciple’s FAITH, and then add VIRTUE, KNOWLEDGE and begin to add TEMPERANCE. **As we’ve discussed already, Pastors are called to PERFECT the saints – not just bring them to childhood or even fatherhood but to complete maturity. MTT & LTT are vital to the discipleship process, of course, the scope of this session is limited to Cost of Discipleship and starting Personal Discipleship. It’s important we see these things on the front end so we can effectively lead people to the work God has called every believer to do.

Worship, Word, and Work are the 3 goals OHBC works to accomplish in the lives of each disciple

A. Come and See: God's _____ for a babe

John 1:35-39

1. Teach your disciple to _____

2. Teach your disciple to _____ you do the work of ministry

a. Simply having a disciple watching ministry establishes _____

B. Come and Serve: God's expectations for "young men" is greater and comes with requirements

Mark 1:17; Matthew 4:18-22

1. God requires _____ than watching from "young men"

2. God requires _____

3. God expects the disciple to attend to the Word in 3 key areas:

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

a. Reading:

b. Exhortation:

c. Doctrine:

C. Come and Sacrifice: God's expectations for the mature (Die to Self)

Mark 8:34-38

1. God requires more from a disciple than just following, they must learn to

a. Don't assume you know the _____ behind the actions people take

**b. Don't assume that people understand what it means to _____
and die to self**

Cost of Discipleship provides solid accountability (Stewardship)

Because Cost of Discipleship has a "Cost" it requires good stewardship. Without stewardship (accountability) you might as well not have a Cost of Discipleship class, because all you're doing is wasting time...

What is required of good stewardship in discipleship:

A. Hold the _____ _____ accountable

Three ways OHBC hold disciple makers accountable:

- Disciple Makers must to be plugged in to ministry and serving themselves
- Disciple Makers must to show evidence of modeling ministry in front of their disciple(s)
- Disciple Makers must ensure that their disciple(s) are beginning to actively serve in ministry under their guidance and supervision

B. Hold the _____ accountable

The bible tells us to disciple the faithful:

2 Timothy 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.*

Two ways OHBC hold disciples accountable:

- Track the disciple's class (C.O.D.) attendance
- expect disciples to be obedient to their disciple maker

C. Hold your _____ leaders accountable

Two ways OHBC hold small group leaders accountable:

- **Funnel ongoing outreaches to the small groups and get them involved**
- **Allow practical and applicational ministry to be conducted in the small groups (i.e. guest follow-up, etc.)**

D. Hold the _____ accountable

- **Keep the work and mission in front of them each week (utilize a Giving Spotlight during your service)**

Why aren't people excited about ministry and serving the Lord

- ***They have not counted the cost...***

This is what Cost of Discipleship works to accomplish... The real question is, how are you (as the pastor) going to make this class applicable to your current ministry strategy?