

Never Out-of-Date – Essentials of Discipleship

C. S. Lewis once wrote, “Affection is responsible for nine-tenths of whatever solid and durable happiness there is in our lives.” One of the trademarks of the follower of Christ is an intentional, demonstrated, observable love. This session explores how this love expresses itself in purposeful care for those we would like to disciple, for those we are presently discipling, and for those we have disciplined and are now reproducing. This love is displayed through intentional contact, serving, listening well, engaging in good conversation, and in the exchange of honest questions and honest answers, exercising hospitality, preparing good teaching materials, and demonstrating a general love of life.

Tom Streeter is the teaching elder of the church he began in Zionsville, Indiana, in 1981. Having planted churches in Illinois and Indiana, his 45 years of pastoral ministry have been characterised by a devotion to developing disciples within the context of the church. Whether training believers in participatory worship, meaningful relationships, cultural engagement, or a vigorous life of the mind, he has a passion for right thinking and authentic living. His lifelong study in theology, the church, and history has included leading several Reformation tours in Europe along with his wife, Judy.

Judy Streeter and her husband Tom have worked to develop churches that emphasise worship, community, small groups, sound teaching, discipleship, and meaningful engagement with culture. Believing that evangelism and the strength of the church are only as effective as the disciple-making process, she has developed materials to facilitate women in properly nurturing growth in others. Her book, *Disciplemaking: Doing What Christ Commanded*, summarises her understanding and passion in this area. Music occupies a high place in Judy’s life in the church and as a teacher and performer. Always ready to travel, she and Tom have led Reformation tours in Europe.

OBSERVABLE LOVE

I. Purposeful care for those we would like to disciple

- A. Intentional contact

- B. Genuine interest

- C. Planned get-togethers

- D. Hospitality

II. Purposeful care for those we are presently discipling

- A. Serving

B. Listening

C. Equipping

D. Preparing good materials

E. Planned events

F. Hospitality

III. Purposeful care for those we have already discipled and who are now reproducing

A. Scheduled meetings

B. Continued equipping

C. Reports on group progress

D. Theological and doctrinal discussions

E. Creative ideas for curriculum

F. Retreats

G. Alumni reunions

H. Recruiting new disciples