

A Biblical Map for Intentional Disciple-Making

Few would argue that making disciples is core to effective ministry, yet most people do not have an overall strategy to keep them oriented. What should the disciple-maker focus on, how should their leadership change through various stages of growth, what are the irreducible essentials? The answers to these questions are best informed by a Biblical map rather than a pragmatic one, since a Biblical map will work in all times and in all places. Looking at the life of Christ and the teachings of Paul, Dave will present a simple framework for understanding the process of disciple making and the essential factors that foster spiritual growth.

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I. The goal of disciple making

Matt 28:18-20

"Then Jesus came to them (the eleven disciples) and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

How many commands do you see in the great commission?

In the original Greek this passage has just two commands,

1. make disciples,

2. look to Jesus

The other three verbs are in a different form and explain three things we need to do to fulfill the two main commands.

“Going” – to make disciples we need to take the initiative to build relationships with non-believers, just like Jesus did.

“Baptizing” – to make disciples we need to identify people with the person and work of Jesus Christ, just like Jesus did.

“Teaching them to obey” – to make disciples we need to equip people to be active in obedience and service, just like Jesus did.

So what do we see when we look at how Jesus did disciple making?

II. Disciplemaking map #1 - *The path of a growing disciple*

Jesus met people where they were at and challenged them to take the next step forward spiritually. (Five challenges of Christ)

Unbelief -----V ----- Maturity

1. Come and see (John 1:39, 46)
2. Repent and believe (John 6:29, 9:35-38)
3. Follow me (John 1:43)
4. Follow me and I will make you fishers of men (Matt 4:19)
5. I am sending you (John 20:21)

How can you help people move through the five challenges of Christ?

III. Disciplemaking map #2 – *Essentials for Spiritual Growth*

What are the key elements that need to be in place for people to grow?

Colossians – the Tree

“To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.” Col 1:27- 29

1. I in Christ – Col 1:28
2. The roots – Col 2:6-7
 - a. The Word – Col 1:5, 3:16
 - b. The Body – Col 2:19, 3:11-15
 - c. Prayer – Col 1:3, 1:9-10

- d. The Holy Spirit – Col 1:8
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- 3. Christ in me – Col 1:28
 - 4. The branches – Col 1:10-12
 - a. Obedience – Col 3:1-11
 - b. Love – Col 3:12-15
 - c. Worship – Col 3:16-17
 - d. Witness – Col 4:3-6

What happens to these areas as people grow and mature?

What happens if one of them is blocked or missing?

How can you help people become rooted in Christ through the roots, and bearing fruit in him through the branches?