

How Discipleship Works in the Church

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I. Introduction.

A. A person wants everyone to come into the church to help as many as possible. The goal is to grow those people.

B. Production is the next goal. A person must be able to grow to produce.

II. Not everyone who comes into the church is a disciple.

A. Every vital church has people growing in different degrees.

B. Some people do not become Christians who are part of the church.

III. Jesus packed all sorts of meaning in the word discipleship. (Luke 14:25, John 6)

A. A disciple must love Jesus so much that his love for his family is like hate.

B. A disciple must give up all that he has.

IV. The emphasis on the church is discipleship and growth.

V. There is no clear line for when a person enters into discipleship.

A. A convert is not the same thing as a disciple.

B. A disciple is a learner.

VI. Discipleship is training that requires first-hand experience and accountability to build stability.

VII. It takes disciple-makers to make disciples. God wants all to become disciple-makers.

VIII. Discipleship should take place in the context of the church.

IX. Building. (I Corinthians 3:11)

A. This looks to a person's character.

B. There is "how to" in a person's training. One can help a person with his quiet time, Bible study, etc. (I Thessalonians 4:11)

C. A disciple-maker must set the pattern.

D. Vision needs to be passed along to the disciple.

X. The large group meeting is good for encouragement, motivation and worship, but it is not good for sharing.

Application questions:

1. How might discipleship look different in a church setting from perhaps a campus ministry? Explain.

2. Why discipleship cannot happen through a book alone?

3. What do you think are the two or three most important principles to building a discipleship ministry in a local church setting? Explain.
