

Essentials of Discipleship

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I. Introduction.

A. We ought to continue to incline our ear to the Lord who faithfully provides for us. (Psalm 116:1-2, 127:1-2)

B. Success is never final and failure is never fatal. Courage is a willingness to endure.

C. We need to learn to say thank you in all things.

II. The twin foundation stones of Evangelical Christianity - Jesus Christ the Son of God and the Bible is His authoritative Word. (Mark 8)

III. The ideals of the ministry.

A. Christ's Great Commission.

1. This is Christ's final marching orders before returning to heaven.
2. We are to go and make disciples of all nations.
3. The Great Commission is to reach the nonbeliever and build up the Christian.
4. Unless this objective is being attained a ministry is off its objective.
5. We are either in the battle or occupying real estate. We can engage the battle by listening to Christians concerns and discerning whether they are really in the battle or not.

B. The multiplying of the laborers.

1. The problem is not with the harvest but with the laborers.
2. Laborers must be multiplied and not added.
3. The costs and the time are great to reproduce labor producing Christians.

C. The importance of every individual.

1. Every person is important to God the Father as an individual.
2. Every person is important to Christ by virtue of the price He paid to buy him back - that is, His life.
3. Every person is important to the Spirit as a channel of blessing no matter his problems.
4. If we believe in the importance of every individual their potential for Christ becomes great.

5. Every person is important to another person.

6. We must see the value of others in order to minister to them.

D. Serving. (Mark 10:45, 2 Corinthians 4:5, Philippians 2, 1 Corinthians 9:19, Philippians 2:17, Matthew 20:26-28)

1. Serving is the key to ministry, to Christ-likeness, evangelism, follow-up, and leadership.

2. Servant hood is an attitude that is hard to learn.

3. You can tell if you are a servant by the attitude you have when people treat you like one.

4. Leadership only comes when we learn to be faithful in what is another man's.

E. Excellence.

1. This means to be the best one can be. (Colossians 4:12)

2. Excellence is sensitive to what the Lord wants a person to do.

3. We are to find what the Lord wants us to do, do it heartily (Colossians 3:23), do more than enough (1 Corinthians 15:58) and to do the best we are capable of doing empowered by the Spirit.

4. Everyone has a gift to use for God's glory. (1 Peter 4:10)

IV. Conclusion. (Ruth 2:12)

Application questions

1. Summarize the chief ideas of ministry. How do these relate to the "twin foundations of Evangelical Christianity?"

2. How is the Great Commission a basis for the rest of the principles the speaker discussed?

3. Are you producing laborers for the Great Commission? Who are some people in your circles that you could invest in? What can you do to initiate this?
