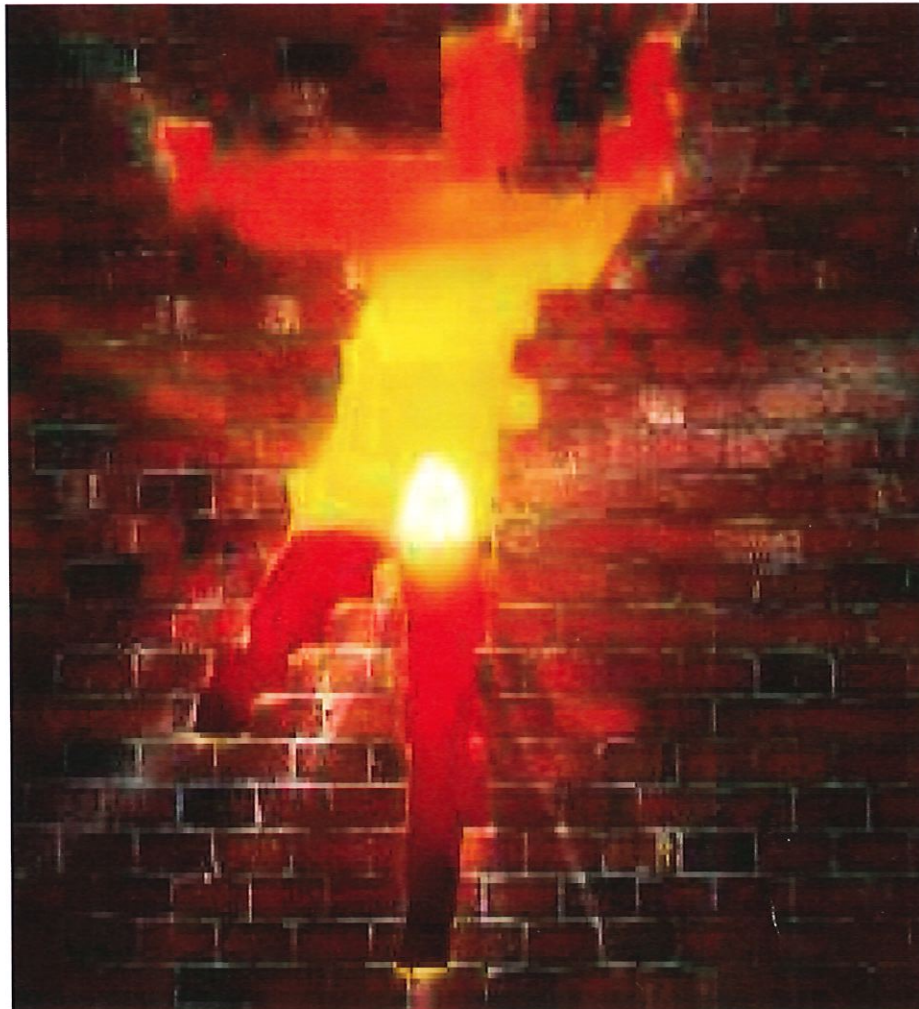


BEYOND THE WALLS



BEYOND THE WALLS- MODERN DAY DISCIPLESHIP

When Jesus came to earth and lived among the people, He showed how much he loved them. He revealed His deep love and care for everyone.

Jesus, the man who came to make a way to save mankind, did not hesitate to serve others. When He met the needs of the people, they would talk with Him about their spiritual needs. Jesus offered a special Hope they had not experienced before.

When Jesus caught fish for his disciples at the seashore or fed 5,000 people on a hillside, he satisfied their hunger. He cared for the needy, the hurting, and the sick. He shared in the pain of others.

Today most Christians struggle on how to reach their community, yes inviting still works but times are changing, and the church must stop and relook at how to reach the hurting and lost.

When we say church what are we saying? _____

Webster: a building for public and especially Christian worship; the clergy or officialdom of a religious body; a body or organization of religious believers:

Peter wrote to Christians about how the Christian life is lived. He said:

“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.” (1 Peter 2:12)

The Christian life is meant to be lived out among non-believers, living in such a way that they can see who we are and eventually glorify God. A Christian life lived only inside a building will never accomplish that.

- To reach our communities we must.
 1. Forgive and ask for forgiveness.
 2. Love
 3. Prayer
- Sunday mornings need to be a celebration.
 1. Celebrate what Christ has done and is doing in the churches (Person) life.
 2. Celebrate what God is doing outside the four walls.
 3. Just CELEBRATE
- We cannot reach outside the four walls if we are struggling within the four walls.
- It all starts with Christ that leads to vision that leads to using our imagination that rescues lost souls.

The church body needs to stop living by the “Us and Them” attitude.

1. How about having Church outings and inviting the community.
2. How about doing VBS out in the community.
3. How about getting a group of volunteers to do God’s work on a Sunday in your community.
4. Men’s and Ladies Groups

As more and more people experience the joy of being involved in demonstrating God’s goodness in partnership with a hurting world, they become aware of their ability to connect with the greater whole.

We Need to stop looking for the NOMAL.

Here is the question - How can we become a church that’s in and for the community?

So, what is Modern Day Discipleship

Being a disciple of Christ means following His commands and striving to become more like Him. A disciple is not perfect but strives to learn from their mistakes and grow in their relationship with Christ. As they do this, they bear fruit for the kingdom of God and that fruit is desired by others and that leads us to lead others to Christ.

Equipping churches see their people's daily work as part of the church's ministry.

- Keep it simple!
- As churches, we feel like we already do this (bringing value with consistency), so why are we still seeing very few new disciples being made?

3 Things we can Learn about Modern-Day Discipleship

- What does modern day discipleship look like to you?
- The word itself—disciple— can seem outdated in our world. And even when we read the Bible it can feel hard to relate to fishermen who left their jobs to follow Jesus and a new way of life.
- But it's been on my heart lately because I know we're all called to it.
 - 1. We are ALL called to make disciples.**
 - A. Jesus called us all to make disciples. This was not a commandment just for the 12 men who walked alongside Him until his death, or the hundreds of followers thereafter. This is a commandment for all Christians.
 - B. Matthew 28:18-19, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
 - 2. We are called regardless of our personalities, financial situation, age, or skills.**
 - A. No matter our feelings as an introvert, our speech, our financial status, ect....
 - B. But thank God He doesn't depend on our personalities! In fact, 2 Corinthians 12:9 reminds me that, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."
 - 3. Modern day discipleship is not meant to be an extra burden, but something we incorporate into the lives we're already living.**
 - A. Begin with who is already in your life. Think about the people you see every day.
 1. Family members. Coworkers. Longtime friends. Neighbors. Church members.
 2. The cashier you see at the gas station every week.
 3. The waitress or waiter you see at the restaurant.

The 7 Characteristics of Modern-Day Discipleship

- Throughout the Bible, we see many examples of discipleship—Moses and Joshua, Eli and Samuel, Elijah and Elisha, Jesus and His disciples, Paul and Timothy, and so many more. That's because discipleship is to be a way of life for the believer. Giving and receiving discipleship is the path to spiritual maturity, and in each of these instances, great personal breakthrough.
- Some are hesitant to disciple others, feeling inadequate to do so. If that's you, remember: To whom much is given, much is required; and to those who accept it, there is an anointing to achieve it.
- What you've been given spiritually should be flowing through you! As you move into this powerful place of ministry, consider these seven characteristics of discipleship that will get you on your way.

1. Share the Gospel

- A. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." –Mark 16:15 (NKJV)
 - 1. Discipleship begins here. Every believer is called to share the gospel, and it's the first characteristic of true discipleship. Mark 16:15 isn't just talking about the occasional overseas mission trip, it's about sharing the love of Christ with those around us every day. People at work, people at the grocery store, unsaved family members and friends all need to hear you "give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15, NIV).

2. Go Beyond Evangelism

- A. "Go therefore and make disciples." –Matthew 28:19 (NKJV)
- B. You'll notice this verse doesn't say "Go therefore and make converts," but rather disciples. Sharing the gospel is important, but it's only step one of what we're called to do. Discipleship is lifelong. It never ends. Each of us is to continually grow and mature spiritually, and that includes new Christians!
- C. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 isn't just about winning souls; it's about teaching people everything Jesus has taught us. Discipleship changes things—it changes people and their thinking. That's why it is so important to teach people the full Word of God and not avoid topics that we think might be offensive.
- D. Discipleship goes beyond helping someone pray the sinner's prayer. It includes having the tough conversations, like how living with someone before marriage or no-fault divorce are not biblical. It also addresses politics through the lens of the Bible when it comes to abortion, the economy, criminal justice and education.

3. Be Imitators of Christ

- A. "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." –1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV)
- B. Discipleship is far more than what we say to people—it's primarily found in the example we give in our own lifestyle. We cannot teach others to live a life of forgiveness and at the same time carry around bitterness and resentment in our own lives. We cannot teach others to walk in love, then allow strife to come into our marriages. Our lifestyle serves as both evangelism and discipleship.

4. Men, Become Spiritual Fathers

- A. "In Christ Jesus I became your father" –1 Corinthians 4:15 (NIV)
- B. Whether they express it or not, men of all ages value the insight, wisdom and counsel of strong Christian men who are willing to come alongside them and help them grow spiritually. They need spiritual fathers. This is one way discipleship is fulfilled
- C. As a man of God, you are called to disciple younger men. Don't worry about feeling qualified—there is an anointing to disciple by taking the role of a spiritual father. Seek the Lord for this anointing and develop it. Everything else will fall into place.

5. Ladies, Become Spiritual Mothers

- A. "Older women must train the younger women." –Titus 2:4
- B. Ladies, while men are called to be spiritual fathers, you are called to become spiritual mothers. If you are a Christian woman, whether you know it or not, you're being watched. You're being studied. You are called to be an example of the Proverbs 31 woman.
- C. Take your place—become a spiritual mother—and help the younger generation rise up in faith and follow the Lord. Embrace the anointing of discipleship through spiritual motherhood. Your spiritual children are waiting for your direction, guidance, and love.

6. Make Connections

- A. "If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge...but do not have love, I am nothing." –1 Corinthians 13:2 (NIV)
- B. Effective discipleship can only come through a personal relationship that is developed on trust and love. That's why one of the characteristics of discipleship is making connections with other people. As you build relationships with other believers, you will position yourself to teach them the ways of the Kingdom. You will have an open door to help them change their thoughts and renew their minds.

7. Seek Out Discipleship Yourself

- A. "To accept correction is wise." –Proverbs 12:1 (CEV)
- B. God's plan for every believer is to disciple others. But the first step is to be a faithful disciple yourself. Pastor George Pearsons says, "Show me a great leader, and I'll show you someone who has first been a faithful disciple."
- C. In other words, discipleship isn't a one-way street. Each of us is called to disciple, but also to be discipled. And it is a lifelong pursuit.
- D. You cannot stand alone and expect to grow. We have been called to spur one another on in our faith. Find someone who is spiritually mature and willing to speak boldly to you. Don't shy away from correction, or you'll end up in the same place year after year.
- E. Above all, remember that discipleship isn't an event, it is a way of life. If you don't have someone in your life who is helping you grow in your faith, reach out to someone whose life and faith you admire today, and ask to talk or meet on a weekly or monthly basis. Share with them and welcome them to speak into your life. Then, be prepared for God to do amazing things through the area of discipleship.

