
MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17

"But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."

Ephesian 4:20-24

"Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."

1 Corinthians 16:13

PRINCIPLE OBJECTIVE

Bringing men to the knowledge of Truth by leading them in 3 areas of focus...

- A. Obedience to God
- B. Conformity to Christ
- C. Manifestation of the Spirit

Leading to the ultimate goal of...

- The Glorification of God

A. Obedience to God

1. We are not our own. **Romans 6:11-13, 16-18, 12:1, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20**
2. We are enslaved to God. **Romans 6:22**
3. The new-self desires to please God. **2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 4:24**
 - i. We need to walk as who we really are!
4. Out of love. **1 John 5:2-3**
 - i. Obedience doesn't save us; it shows that we love Him
5. Out of faithfulness. **1 John 2:3-6**
 - i. The believers walk is not passive but full of action
 - ii. This involves active seeking

6. Reward and blessing. **Psalm 128:1**
 - i. God created us.
 - ii. God owns us.
 - iii. He has complete authority over us.
 - iv. And then He blesses us
 - Blessings that come from obedience
 - Crowns
 - Imperishable Crown (1 Cor 9:24-25)
 - Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thess 2:19)
 - Crown of Righteousness (2 Tim 4:8)
 - Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:4)
 - Crown of Life (Rev 2:10, James 1:12)

B. Conformity to Christ

1. Knowledge of Christ. **Ephesians 4:14-16, 2 Peter 3:17-18**
 - i. Know more about Jesus. We cannot love Him (at least in a proper sense) if we do not know Him.
 - ii. Otherwise, we may very well be making an idol – a Jesus of our own making.
2. He is our example. **1 Peter 2:21, 4:1, Matthew 11:29**
 - i. We walk in the footsteps of Jesus in every aspect of living, all the while, having to deny ourselves because we don't want to walk that "hard" path...where we will find rest for our souls
 - ii. Presupposes a high view of God
 - He is worth it even if it is difficult here and now on this Earth in this world.
3. Denial of self. **John 3:30, Luke 9:23-24**
4. Matching experience to our identity in Christ. **Romans 6:1-11, 8:29, Galatians 2:20, 1 Corinthians 6:15-17**
 - i. Already/not yet tension
 - ii. Positional/experiential
 - Positional
 - That which we have/enjoy by virtue of being in Christ
 - Experiential
 - Our everyday walk in Christ
 - Eph 1:3-14
 - [Eph 1:3 ESV] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
 - iii. The doctrinal foundation of Romans 1-11
 - Ambassadors
 - Children of God

- Heirs of God
- iv. And the living it out/application of Romans 12-16
 - Is that not application?
 - Matching our experiences/life to our identity in Christ
- 5. The living Word. **John 1:1, Hebrews 4:12** (Conforming to Christ means conforming to God's written Word {see "Accomplishing the Objective"})

C. Manifestation of the Spirit

1. Rejecting the flesh. **Romans 7:18, 8:13, Galatians 5:24**
2. Mind set on the Spirit. **Romans 8:5-9**
3. Body belonging to the Spirit. **1 Corinthians 6:19**
 - i. To put not too fine a point on it – your body matters.
 - ii. Because God the Holy Spirit dwells within you.
4. Life in the Spirit. **John 14:16-17**
 - i. In worldly terms, we are in the unenviable position of having that joy kill, the Holy Spirit, within us that seeks to suck all the fun out of our lives.
 - ii. We have this Spirit of Truth that discloses to us True Truth – which happens to go against the false narratives of society.
 - The false narratives of society that call evil good and good evil (Isa 5:20 and Romans 1)
5. Testimony of the Spirit. **1 John 4:13, 1 Corinthians 2:12-13, Romans 8:15-16**
6. Spirit reveals Truth. **John 15:26, 16:13**
 - i. Truth = the word of God
 - Truth will never deviate from or contradict the Bible
7. Fruit of the Spirit. **Matthew 7:18, Galatians 5:22-23**
 - i. When we have God the Holy Spirit within us, it comes out.
 - This is closely related to the role of works in the life of the Christian
 - Good words are the evidence of ...salvation...the presence of the Holy Spirit...

God Glorified

What is the chief end of man?

- A. The chief end of man is to Glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.

(Westminster Shorter Catechism Question 1)

 1. This is the ultimate calling upon our lives
 2. This is the highest and best use of our lives
- B. All of God's creation is called upon to glorify God.

1. He is the creator worthy of being glorified and due our glorification of Him
2. Because “for from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever.”

“I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.”

Isaiah 42:8

“Everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made.”

Isaiah 43:7

(Matthew 5:16, 1 Peter 2:12, 1 Corinthians 6:20, 10:31, Isaiah 48:11, Romans 11:36)

ACCOMPLISHING THE OBJECTIVE

1. Teaching men how to study the Word of God. (Ad Fontes- Latin: to the source)

*Why is this our Foundation?

- God is a God of order
- The Bible is God-inspired
 - The words on the page are actual words that we can understand.
 - God is making himself known in a way we can understand...
 - In mundane words
 - Not ecstatic utterances or special knowledge...**but through the written Word.**
- This is for believers.
 - Unbelievers can study the Bible but something (rather, someone) will be missing... **The help of the Holy Spirit to understand.**

*Jesus is the living Word (John 1:1), and the Bible is God’s written Word. Therefore, when we conform to the Word of God we are conforming to Christ.

A. **Observation** (What does the text say?)

- Don’t assume anything due to familiarity
 - Dig in and let the text do the guiding.
- Words matter
 - Taking the author of Scripture at his word as it is given by the Holy Spirit

- Comprehension
 - Before first meeting, disciple and discipler should read the entire book
 - Basic understanding and overview of the text
- Context
 - Genre, words, who, when, locations, figures of speech, etc. (*Paster John has a great Inductive Bible Study on the MVB website that thoroughly covers this*)

Observation should be the foundation to B and C. Without Observation we cannot begin to Interpret or Apply God's Word in our lives.

B. Interpretation (What does the text mean?)

- This is where we ask *WHY*?
 - Why are these words repeated?
 - Why are these people mentioned?
- Examination
 - Understanding the author's viewpoint, as well as the viewpoint of his audience
 - Not asking what it means to us today, but what it meant to the original hearers or readers (historical context)
 - Literal, literary, historical, grammatical, approach
 - Who is the original audience?
 - What is the cultural, political, social, and geographical situation of the Original Audience?
 - What is happening in history or in their church at that time?
 - Why was the book written?
 - Other interpretation questions
 - What are the author's concerns?
 - What are the original audience's concerns, questions, struggles, strengths, and/or weaknesses?
 - What does this mean?
 - What does this imply?
 - What is the significance of this?
 - What is the larger argument being made?
 - What does this passage reveal about man?
 - What does this passage reveal about God?
 1. His purpose?
 2. His nature?
 3. His work?

- Tools
 - Tools vs. Sources (*The Bible should be our main source*)
 - Cross-referencing - called a tool but the first of the “tools” because it is word-centric
 1. scripture interpret scripture
 2. Is there an OT quote in your NT reading?
 3. To what does it refer?
 4. What other passages deal with this same theme?
- Bible Arc website (www.biblearc.com) and app
- ESV app
- www.blueletterbible.com
 - Study tools
 - Dictionaries
- www.biblehub.com site and app
- www.studylight.org
 - Bible study tools
- Keep it gospel-centered
- Figure out the main point of that portion of text

C. Application (What does the text mean for my life?)

- Or SO WHAT?
 - After observing and then interpreting...
 - We then ask why that matters and how it applies
 - 2 ways of application
 - Inward
 1. How shall this change me?
 - Outward
 1. How shall I act upon it?
 - Another way of thinking about application
 - Head
 1. Right thinking based upon the text
 2. Removing the lies or half-truths we believe
 - Hands
 1. How it plays out in your life
 - Heart
 1. The inner transformation
 2. Application questions
 - i. What are the basic timeless truths in this passage?

- ii. How do these truths apply to my life?
 - What am I to believe?
 - Do I need to change anything I previously believed?
 - Are there attitudes/actions I need to repent of?
 - How does this truth comfort me?
 - Or challenge me?
 - What have I learned about myself or others?
 - Is there any way I need to change in how I related to others?
 - What do I see about the character of God?
 - How does this aspect of God's character speak or minister to me?
 - Is there a command/warning/promise/encouragement here to take in?
 - What specific steps or actions can I take to carry this application out?
- Carry this application to God in prayer
 - Repentance where necessary

*God's Truth should be our only aim when searching the text. We cannot interpret text to validate our "truth". **Exegesis vs. Eisegesis**

2. Leading men in daily life through counsel, example, support and the relationships established in teaching.

- Disciple = Learner/Pupil
- The goal should be to build men into independent "learners" of Christ and His ways.
- This should not only be done by teaching but living out the example of a life conformed to Christ.
- The byproducts of our main objective should be...
 - Spiritual growth
 - New relationships between men, established in their belief in Christ.
 - Becoming the "men" of 1 Corinthians 16:13
 - "Young" disciples finding their own disciples (We want to train up men to disciple other men).
 - Family discipleship in the home.

ROLES AND STRUCTURE

A. Roles

- Disciple
 - Do observation during the week before meeting face-to-face
 - This sets the foundation for the rest of the work you'll do with your discipler
 - So, do it thoroughly
 - And don't worry about being perfect at it.
 - Practice makes us better at it.
 - Interpretation and Application will be done with the discipler
- Discipler
 - You will have to be ready having done the observation as well.
 - Think ahead regarding the interpretation and application
 - Guide
 - Don't give answers

B. Structure

- 1 on 1 discipleship
- Matching men looking to disciple with men looking to be disciplined or...
- Disciplers seeking men worthy of being disciplined on their own.
- Indefinite length (Yes, this is a commitment).
- Hopefully meeting once every other week but more is encouraged.
- Word of God DRIVEN.....This is not a 'buddy' program.
- Contract of Expectations (Covenant)