

CBC BIBLE STUDY

January 11, 2023

DISCIPLESHIP

Matthew 28:18-20 NLT

“Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.””

DISCIPLES ARE MADE AND NOT BORN—Helping Others Grow to Maturity in Christ
by Walter A. Henrichsen

Discipleship—“a journey of intentional decisions, leading to maturity in your relationship with Jesus, so that you can become more like him in your attitudes, focus and ultimately behavior.”

IF YOU MAKE DISCIPLES, you always get the CHURCH. But if you make a church, you rarely get disciples.

Every BELIEVER ought to be a DISCIPLE!

Effective DISCIPLESHIP builds the church, not the other way around. We need to understand the church as the EFFECT (end result) of discipleship, and not the cause.

A. A church without discipleship is but a social club!!!

B. Personal and Spiritual Transformation ought to be taking place.

C. With transformation, the local church becomes only an activity center.

THE DANGER OF ACTIVITY DISPLACING DISCIPLESHIP—Thom Rainer

1. Activity is not biblical purpose. Busyness should not be the goal of a healthy congregation.
2. Busyness can take us away from connecting with other believers and non-believers.
3. An activity-driven church often is not strategic in its ministries. Leaders do not think about what is best; they often think about what is next on the activity list.
4. A congregation that is too busy can hurt families. Busyness can lead to family neglect. Churches should be about strengthening families, not pulling them apart.
5. An activity-driven church often has no presence in the community. Some churches are busy doing church work and not the work of the church—incarnational ministry—Jesus in the community.
6. Activity-driven churches tend to have siloed ministries. Instead of ministries and activities working together for a strategic purpose, they tend to work only for their particular areas.
7. Churches that focus on activities tend to practice poor stewardship. Many activities may not be necessary. Some tend to be redundant. Still others

may be viewed as sacred cows. Ministry effectiveness can oftentimes be enhanced with less instead of more.

GOAL: KEEP IT SIMPLE (Simple Church)—Matt Adair

Transformational Discipleship:

Treats the Scriptures as the story of God ruling over creation, in partnership with humanity, for His glory.

Transformational Discipleship leads to Godly actions. Accumulation of information is not the goal, but life-long transformation is—change in attitude and action.

DESIRES OF DISCIPLESHIP:

THE LOST ART OF DISCIPLE MAKING—Leroy Eims

- A. To have a dedicated band of men and women spiritually qualified to handle the spiritual problems that arise in the church
- B. To have a group of persons who knew how to lead another person to Christ and then take that person from the time of their conversion, and help him/her become a solid, dedicated, committed, fruitful, mature disciple, who could and would then repeat that process in the life of another (disciples beget disciples).

GOAL—Multiplication of Disciples (make disciples)

- A. Baptize—identify with Christ
- B. Teach—to obey His commands (word and deed—precept and example)
- C. Assurance—I am with you always

NEXT WEEK: RENEWAL THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP—A STUDY OF NEHEMIAH