

Training Up Disciples: A Plan For Making Disciples in the City

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-Revelation is a plan for Discipleship

Revelation 17:1-6

I.T. Beckwith's "The Apocalypse of John"

Darrell Johnson, "Discipleship on the Edge"

(7 Characteristics of Babylon)

1. Leaving God out of the equation, or until disaster strikes.
2. Sensuality, corrupting morals and heightened appeal to the sexuality.
3. Injustice- Babylon is built on the back of slaves.
4. Worship of products – to find identity in what you produce.
5. Violence – war becomes the main business.
6. Deception and counterfeit.
7. Idolatry.

Eugene Peterson "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction"

"There is a great market for religious experience in our world; there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations of Christians called holiness.

Religion in our time has been captured by the tourist mindset. Religion is understood as a visit to an attractive site, to be made when we have adequate leisure."

Eugene Peterson **"Discipleship is a decision to "live by what I know about God, not what I feel about Him, or myself or my neighbors."**

(Skye Jethani, "The Divine Commodity: Discovering A Faith Beyond Consumer Christianity")

In both **Acts 2:41-47** and **Romans 15:1-7** is the shape of discipleship.

- Individuals become the part of the faith community in the city.
- Harmony among believers.
- Spiritual growth for everyone.
- Unified worship.
- Formation of a gracious community.

MEMBERSHIP to DISCIPLESHIP: A Discipleship Plan

"The transfer of the "good deposit" of the gospel is not a barren educational exercise. It's deeply and inescapably relational. When we look at the relationship between Paul and Timothy, it becomes immediately apparent that much more than a transfer of skills or information was involved in Timothy's training. Paul repeatedly describes Timothy with great warmth as his son and beloved child (1 Cor. 4:17; Phil 2:22; 1Tim 1:2; 2 Tim 1:2; 2:1). Timothy was almost certainly converted through

Paul's ministry (Acts 14:6-23 16:1-3), and became a highly valued co-worker in the gospel mission ("I have not one like him"-Phil 2:20), whom Paul trusted to send as his emissary to the churches (Phil 2:19-20; 1 Thess. 3:1-5). This close relationship was a vehicle for one of the key elements of Paul's training of Timothy – imitation." **(Colin Marshall and Tony Payne, The Trellis and the Vine: The Ministry Mind-shift that Changes Everything (Kingsford, Australia: Matthias Media), 71-72**

(Dr. Phil Maynard, "Shift 2.0: Helping Congregations Back into the Game of Effective Ministry")

"The discipleship pathway (model) developed by John Wesley, founder of the Methodist, is the approach to discipleship that has been most influential in a wide variety of Christian traditions, including the non-denominational churches.... In its simplified version, this pathway can be presented in 5 parts: 1. Searching for meaning. 2. Exploring Christ's way. 3. Beginning new life in Christ. 4. Growing our walk in Christ. 5. Maturing all our life in Christ."