

FBFI BREAKOUT SESSION

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A Mentoring Mindset: a Missing Ministry?

Luke 22:32; 2 Timothy 2:1-7

Christ, the great teacher, personally taught the disciples of which comes our great example of mentorship/discipleship. The disciples as learners, learned lessons on holiness, religious liberty, prayer, witnessing, meditation from the Word, evangelism, power of God, sovereignty of God, lessons on the cross, humility, servanthood, discipline, care, and future things all from Christ and His example.

Christ's mandate for discipleship has a two-fold responsibility of personal maturity manifesting a mentoring mentality.

I. The Precedent of Biblical Mentorship/Discipleship

A. Christ's instructions concerning mentorship/discipleship

1. To Peter—**Luke 22:32**
2. To the disciples—**Matt. 28:18-20**
 - The **proclamation**
 - **Going**—Literally, “*Having gone, therefore, make disciples*” ..., “*I assume you are on your way.*”
 - **Baptizing**—Identifying one to all the resources of the Godhead by the newness of life.

- **Teaching**—A continual obligation to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, getting to know Him in a life-long, deeper, and more intimate way concerning His very person.
 - “Every Christian is not gifted as a teacher, but every faithful Christian is committed to promoting the ministry of teaching God’s Word both to make and to edify disciples of Christ.”
[MacArthur New Testament Commentary]
 - The **pattern**
 - Jesus Christ appoints and trains the 12 (Matt.10:1).
 - The twelve reach and train 70 (Luke 10:1). [Look at Christ’s instructions for the 70.]
 - The seventy reach and train 120 (Acts 1:1–15).
 - The 120 reach and train the world (Matt. 28:19–20).
3. To the people through the gospels
- The Gospel of **Matthew**
 A manual on discipleship (Matt. 5:1–7:28)
 - The Gospel of **Mark**
 A concept of disciples as servants (Mark 8:27–10:45)
 - The Gospel of **Luke**
 The requirements of disciple (Luke 14:26–43)
 - The Gospel of **John**
 The marks of true disciples (John 8:31–32)

B. Scriptural illustrations concerning mentorship/discipleship

1. Moses/Joshua
2. Naomi/Ruth
3. Samuel/Saul/David
4. David/Jonathan/Solomon
5. Elijah/Elisha
6. Barnabas/Paul/Mark
7. Paul/Timothy/Titus/Silas
8. Jesus Christ/Disciples
9. Priscilla/Aquila/Apollos

II. The Panorama of Biblical Mentorship/Discipleship

A. Its **Definition**

1. Literally
 - Learner; pupil
 - One who follows one's teaching (Thayer's)
2. Practically
 - A disciple is an ongoing, lifelong transformation wherein a believer becomes Christ-like in character and purpose (Eph. 4:13–15; Phil. 2:5).
 - *A caring person who takes the initiative to develop a personal, growing relationship with an individual to encourage spiritual and personal maturity.*

- Discipleship is a perfect example of mentoring, and mentoring is inherent to life-on-life discipleship. (*Men of Influence*—Bill and Howard Hendricks).
 - Mentoring is what happens when one man affects another man deeply enough to where he later declares, “*I never would have become who I am were it not for the man’s influence.*”
3. Scripturally
- It is used synonymously for “believer” (Matt. 28:18–20; Acts 6:1, 2, 7; 14:20; 15:10, 11).
 - It is used synonymously for “Christian” (Acts 11:26).

B. Its **Derivation**

1. The **Content** of discipleship is derived from the Master.
2. The **Concept** of discipleship is derived from the Master.

C. Its **Distinction**—Entering into a relationship

D. Its **Domination**

1. It is a **necessity**—1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18
2. It is a **need**—Heb. 5:12–6:1; 2 Cor. 3:1–2
3. It should be a **norm**—Eph. 2:10; Phil. 2:9; 2 Cor. 3:18; John 15

III. The Pursuit of Biblical Mentorship/Discipleship

A. Mentorship's/Discipleship's **Application** in the Home

1. Its Imperative

- Love—Eph. 5:25–33
- Respect—Eph. 5:22–24, 33; Titus 2:3–5
- Train—Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21

2. Its Influence

- God's Presence
- Lessons learned from Obed-edom's home (2 Sam. 6:10–11; 1 Chron. 26:4–8).

3. Its Implementation—Personal observations

B. Mentorship's/Discipleship's **Admonition** to the Church

1. Its **Mandate**—“*Make Disciples*” (Matt. 28:18–20)

2. Its **Mindset**—2 Cor. 6:1, 3–10

- It is a behavior.
- It is a bestowment.
- It is a balance.

3. Its **Manifestation**—Meeting people at their level of readiness (Where they are!) [The key = Relationship]

- Formal
- Informal
- Practical
 - Set the tone. Clarify expectations.
 - Maintain trust.
 - Have an agenda. Be flexible.
 - Offer helps in areas of expertise.

- Offer perspective. Focus on why and what
 - Ask good questions.
 - Challenge assumptions.
 - Push in right directions.
 - Be competent to confront.
 - Be patient, for it takes time.
4. Its **Ministry**—“*Consider what I say*” (2 Tim. 2:1–7)
- A **committed** ministry (v.1, 7; Eph. 4:11–16)
 - The guidance in the ministry (v. 12)
 - Equipping the saints for the ministry
 - Engaging in the work of the ministry
 - Edifying the Body of Christ, His ministry
 - The goal for the ministry (v. 13)
 - The growth of the ministry (v. 14–16)
 - Anchoring the Truth in love (v. 14)
 - Admonishing the Truth in love (v. 15)
 - Advancing the Truth in love (v. 16)
 - A **competent** ministry (v. 3–6)
 - One must fight wholeheartedly.
 - One must compete according to the rules.
 - One must work energetically.
 - A **continued** ministry (v. 2)
 - This is a **pattern for discipleship**.
 - Paul to Timothy
 - Timothy to faithful Men
 - Faithful men to others
 - **Disciples need to be equipped to pass on their faith; new believers must be taught to make disciples of others.**
 - A **confident** ministry (1 Thess. 2:7–12)
[A Mentor Serves as a Confidence Builder!]

- A **changed** ministry (Titus 2:1–8)
 - **Older men teaching younger men will change a ministry.**
 - “The older a man gets, the more loaves and fish he has to offer” (Jn. 6:1–14) [*Men of Influence* by Bill and Howard Hendricks].
 - Experience & knowledge
 - Access (to more things)
 - Money (investing in people)
 - Resources (home, car, tools, etc.)
 - Friendship and just being there
 - Time and being yourself
 - **Older women teaching younger women will change a ministry.**

In mentoring/discipleship, we can trust that God is already at work in the other man. We need to show up and do our part. But we are not the main actor; God is. Whatever our ability may be to serve as a mentor, of far more importance is our availability for God to use us as a mentor. Concluding that Christ’s mandate for discipleship has a two-fold responsibility of personal maturity manifesting a mentoring/discipleship mentality.