

PHILOSOPHY, PURPOSE AND METHOD OF BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP (DISCIPLESHIP II)

"For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." - -

Ephesians 4:12, 14

**The great need that we have in this Independent Baptist Church is mature, responsible, productive, Spirit-filled, Christ-like believers. Discipleship Training is the process by which the Lord Jesus uses to take an immature babe in Christ and bring them to spiritual maturity, and the Lord willing, eventually to leadership. One of the main reasons churches are not growing is because the church is full of baby Christians, who are eventually taken in by false doctrine and we wonder where they went and why the church is lacking in maturity. Our job is to disciple and train others on the outside as God changes them on the inside.

**The goal of Discipleship Training is to lead all of our believers to spiritual maturity and some of our mature Christians to spiritual leadership.

I. THE PHILOSOPHY OF BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP

- Jesus Christ Himself started Biblical Discipleship.

A. The Biblical Commission - Matthew 28:18-20

1. Authority - "all power"
2. Evangelism - "teach all nations" **The Motive for Soul-Winning is obedience, not results!
3. Identification with the local church - "baptize them"
4. Discipleship Training - "teaching them to observe all things"
 - a. Soul winning alone (1,000 converts every year for 15 years = 15,000 converts)
 - b. Soul winning with Discipleship Training (following the example of Christ - 12 disciples in 3 years)
 - 1) 3 years = 12 converts
 - 2) 6 years = 144 converts
 - 3) 9 years = 1,728 converts
 - 4) 12 years = 20,736 converts
 - 5) 15 years = 248,832 converts
5. Ability - "I am with you"

**Here is the point. It is not enough just to go soulwinning; we must disciple those that we have won to the LORD. After going through this course and applying the Biblical principles in your life, you will duplicate yourself far more in the end through Discipleship, than by simply going soul-winning - from one result to the next and seldom seeing your fruit remain.

B. The Biblical Command - Ephesians 4:11-16

1. Perfect the saints, vs. 12
 - a. For the work of the ministry
 - b. For the edifying of the body (*Are you building up the believer?*)
2. Instruct the saints, vs. 13a
 - a. In the unity of the faith
 - b. In the knowledge of the Son of God
3. Grow the saints, vs. 13b-15
 - a. To a perfect body (spiritually mature)
 - b. To a heavenly standard
 - c. To a solid foundation
 - d. To a bold proclamation of truth
4. Watch the results, vs. 16

- a. A fitly joined together body
 - b. Effectual working of the body
 - c. Edification of the body
 - 1) When the church is healthy the church will grow
 - 2) It is our function to keep the church healthy and watch it “naturally” grow.
- C. The Biblical Method - John 15:8, 16
- 1. God’s purpose for us
 - a. We may bear fruit
 - b. We may glorify God
 - 2. God’s pleasure in us
 - a. Go
 - b. Bear much fruit
 - c. Fruit that remains
- D. Biblical Reproduction
- 1. Generations - II Timothy 2:2
 - a. Paul
 - b. Timothy
 - c. Faithful men
 - d. Teachable others
 - 2. Previous generations
 - a. Jesus Christ
 - b. Apostles
 - c. Barnabas
 - d. Paul

II. THE PURPOSE OF BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP

- A. We must understand that Biblical Discipleship....
 - 1. Is every Christian's ministry.
 - 2. Is the spiritual life of the church.
 - 3. Is personal (not to be done with a group).
 - **It follows Christ’s example (few). Should be one-on-one or with a husband and wife.
 - 4. Takes work and time.
 - 5. Takes faithfulness, II Timothy 2:2.
 - 6. Creates accountability on the part of the disciple.
 - 7. Must be presented Biblically, showing them why you have a command from God to disciple them.
- B. Biblical Goals for Biblical Discipleship Training
 - 1. **Goal #1** - To get your disciple established in the Word of God.
 - a. Your disciple must get absolute authority from the Bible. Your testimony is important, but your disciple cannot rely only on you.
 - b. The Lord Jesus established His Word with His disciples. John 14:15,24; 15:3,7,14; 17:6-8
 - 2. **Goal #2** - To get your disciple established in Prayer.
 - a. Your disciple must be able to communicate with the Lord. This is vital to their relationship with their Heavenly Father.
 - b. The Lord Jesus Christ spent time in prayer with His Father. He also taught His disciples to pray. Luke 11:1-4
 - 3. **Goal #3** - To get your disciple established in the Fellowship of the believer.
 - a. Your disciple must be more than just a student. He must be your friend.
 - b. The Lord Jesus established this principle with the twelve. John 13:34,35; 15:12-15
 - 4. **Goal #4** - To get your disciple established in the Church.
 - a. Your disciple must have a way to work out God’s plan for his life. God’s ordained structure for this purpose is the local church.
 - b. The Lord Jesus Christ established a body of believers to function as one. John

17:11,18-26

5. **Goal #5** - To get your disciple established in the Work of the Ministry.
 - a. The job is not complete until your disciple has begun an active involvement in the work of Christ.
 - b. The Lord Jesus Christ produced men who were capable, functioning participants in His ministry. John 14:12; 15:1-8,16
 6. **Goal #6** - To get your disciple established in bearing Fruit that Remains.
 - a. Your disciple must produce fruit that remains. The evidence of spiritual maturity is producing young believers who mature in the Lord.
 - b. The Lord Jesus Christ spent three and one half years producing men who would turn the world upside down with the Gospel of Christ.
 7. **Goal #7** - To get your disciple established in a Lifetime of Faithfulness.
 - a. Your disciple must be faithful. Discipleship is not something that you try for awhile and then decide whether or not you want to follow Jesus. It takes a lifetime commitment. There is no turning back.
 - b. The Lord Jesus Christ produced men who were faithful "unto death". Eleven of the twelve apostles were martyred. John was boiled in oil and exiled to Patmos.
- C. Benefits of Biblical Discipleship
1. You will observe fruit instead of frustration.
 2. You will serve with a definite purpose.
 3. You will share the ministry with the believers.
 4. You will lead a strong and solid ministry.
 5. You will sense the security and satisfaction the church experiences.
 6. You will have fewer church problems.
 7. You will allow the pastor to spend more time in God's Word.
 8. You will multiply yourself time and time again.
 9. You will have an abundance of laborers.
 10. You will experience an increase in giving.
 11. You will have a world impact.
- D. What do we want to see in the lives of our future leaders?
1. A clear calling of God.
 2. A strong commitment to the Word of God.
 3. An obvious transformed life in Christ.
 4. A clear Biblical vision.
 5. A servant's heart - humility.
 6. A wise decision maker.
 7. An ability to get along with other people (good human relationships).
 8. A bearer of fruit that remains.
 9. An ability to train other leaders.
 10. A family life that is in order.
- E. We must trust our new leaders to share the work of the ministry.
1. The main hindrance is insecurity.
 2. The new perspective is to work together - "along-side of".
 3. We should allow them to make mistakes.
 4. We should share all areas of the ministry.
- F. What is the final outcome?
1. There will be a strong team of leadership within the church.
 2. There will be new ministries within the local church.
 3. There will be mission ministries outside the local church.
 4. There will be a revival of churches that have become spiritually stagnant.
 5. There will be a World Vision!!! An army of disciplers equipped to attack their world for Christ.

III. THE METHOD OF BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP

- A. Discipleship is training our own people within our own local church. Philippians 2:2,20
- B. Discipleship Training must have an established structure
- This is the structure we will follow at this Independent Baptist Church.
1. Discipleship 1 - 18 basic truths concerning the Christian life *(helps or guides)*
- a. Lesson 1 - Salvation *Memorization list
 - b. Lesson 2 - Eternal Security
 - c. Lesson 3 - Baptism
 - d. Lesson 4 - Witnessing to the Lost *Soulwinning helps*
 - e. Lesson 5 - The Word of God *Bible reading schedule, check list and spiritual diary*
 - f. Lesson 6 - Prayer *Prayer guide*
 - g. Lesson 7 - The Will of God
 - h. Lesson 8 - The Local Church *Constitution, Membership form*
 - i. Lesson 9 - The Holy Spirit
 - j. Lesson 10 - Financial Giving *Tithing guide*
 - k. Lesson 11 - Dealing with Sin
 - l. Lesson 12 - Liberty in Christ
 - m. Lesson 13 - My Job and Employer
 - n. Lesson 14 - The Lost World
 - o. Lesson 15 - Other Christians
 - p. Lesson 16 - Separation
 - q. Lesson 17 - The Judgment Seat of Christ
 - r. Lesson 18 - Reaching the World
- **Each Disciple will receive each of these lessons along with a Discipleship Journal to help you keep track of your disciple's progress. (*You are to do each one of the lessons taught with the disciple.*)
2. Discipleship Training 2 - Disciple's Training
- a. Philosophy of Discipleship
 - b. Purpose of Discipleship
 - c. Method of Discipleship
3. Discipleship Training 3 - Ministry Training through the Bible Institute and Bimudos
- a. How to study the Word of God
 - b. Personal evangelism
 - c. Biblical doctrine
 - d. Courtship, marriage, and family
 - e. Spirit-controlled living, spiritual gifts, and my ministry
4. Discipleship Training 4 - Leadership Mentoring and Training

IV. HOW TO DISCIPLE OTHER PEOPLE

- A. **Become involved in this church's discipleship program. Contact the discipleship director.**
- B. **Find someone to disciple.**
- 1. **Look around for someone who needs to be disciplined.**
 - 2. **Get advice from your pastor or discipleship director on who is in need of discipleship.**
- C. **Talk to that person about being disciplined.**
- D. **Tell them you would like to teach them the Word of GOD and help them to grow spiritually.**
- E. **Set a specific day and time.**
- 1. **If you don't make a specific appointment, it will be hard to keep.**
 - 2. **You may have to work around their schedule.**
- F. **Encourage them to get a notebook and pen so as to take notes. Maybe you can buy it for them!**

G. On your first discipleship time.

1. Explain the program to them.
2. If they don't have a Bible, let them know they will have to memorize verses to get one. Give them the list.
3. Tell them there will be responsibilities on their part. (baptism, church attendance, memorizing verses, faithfulness) If they are not faithful then you will stop discipling them.
4. Tell them they will be given the lessons when they begin to disciple others after they have finished Discipleship I and II.

H. How to teach the lesson.

1. Pray before and after the lesson. Pray specifically for the disciple to learn the lesson and apply it to their life.
2. Teach the Bible, not your own opinions.
3. Go slow. If they don't understand, it does no good to continue. (*How do we know if they understand? If they don't live it they don't understand or believe it.*)
4. Ask the questions at the end of the lesson. Make them think through the question. If they are not understanding the principles, you may have to go back to the lesson and teach it again.
5. Think of other questions that pertain to the lesson and ask them. Then ask them if they have any questions.

I. The disciple is looking to you, therefore you must be faithful. The disciple will not do more than you do.

J. You will be the one to teach him about baptism, reading their Bible, prayer, joining the church, tithing, soulwinning and eventually discipleship. Be prepared every week to start with a new disciple.

K. Your goal is to bring the disciple to the place where they are able to disciple others.