

# THE HEART OF A DISCIPLEMAKER

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## Introduction:

- A discipler is intentional...they develop close friendships/relationships with other people. You cannot disciple at a distance.
- ✓ “Lone Ranger” Christianity sets a person up for failure.
- ✓ It’s impossible to obey the commands of Scripture in isolation.
  - Love one another. (John 13:34)
  - Accept (respect) one another. (Romans 15:7)
  - Serve one another. (Galatians 5:13)
  - Submit to one another. (Ephesians 5:21)
  - Encourage one another. (I Thessalonians 5:11)
  - Forgive one another. (Ephesians 4:32)
  - Confess your sins to one another. (James 5:16)
- ❖ It is God’s plan that we live in community and unity with one another.
  - Dietrich Bonhoeffer said: *“sin demands to have a man by himself. It withdraws him from the community. The more isolated a person is, the more destructive will be the power of sin over him.”*
  - ✓ No wonder the writer of Hebrews said: **“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially that the day of His return is drawing near. (Hebrews 10:25)**
  - ✓ We need other people in our life to encourage us and help us grow in Christlikeness and we need to do that for others.

- To make disciples, you must first be a disciple.
  - ✓ A disciple is a learner and a follower.
  - ✓ You are learning the truth about Christ and putting it into practice.
  - ✓ You cannot lead others on a journey that you haven't been on...you are to model what it looks like to follow Christ.
  - ✓ Of course, you know this is impossible to do on your own...this is why Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit.
  
- ❖ The Apostle Paul shows us how to care for new believers. **1 Thessalonians 2**...we need the heart of a shepherd – what's involved?
  - 1) **Transparency (vs. 1-3)** (allowing others to see you, know you for who you really are). *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*
    - Paul was thankful for these new believers...felt his time with them was worthwhile.
  
- ❖ Those we feel called to disciple need to know we truly care for them; that we want what is best for them.
  - He acknowledged the difficulties of serving God. (beaten, jailed, mistreated, falsely accused).
    - ✓ Ministry is not for the faint at heart. Glad Paul and his team didn't quit...or throw in the towel.
  
- ❖ As we disciple others, we need to coach them through the hard times...remain faithful and keep following.
  - We need to serve with the right motives (**vs. 3 - we are not preaching with any deceit or impure motives**).
  
- ❖ Be open and honest with those you disciple. Remember, people identify with our struggles more than they do our strength...maybe there is hope for me.
  - ✓ Here is what God is teaching me...

2) **Trustworthiness**. (vs. 4-6) *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*

- The Gospel is a treasure that has been entrusted to us.
  - ✓ It unlocks the door to Heaven.
  - ✓ We are to protect it by sharing it.
  - ✓ It's Gods message to men/women, boys/girls.
  - ✓ No bait and switch...present it clearly.
- ❖ When discipling others point them to the truth of Scripture...show them in the word...that gives the message authority.
  - ✓ Seek the approval of God not man. Glorify God and don't draw attention to yourself.

3) **Tenderness** (vs. 7-8) - like a mother feeding and caring for her own children. *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*

- ✓ The younger the believers the more patience required.
- ✓ Children don't grow up instantly but they should eventually.
- ✓ Love them where they are, in-spite of their flaws.
- ✓ A mother sacrifices for the good of her children.
- ✓ The image is a mother drawing her child close to her heart.
- ❖ Making disciples is what we do, love is why we do it...love for God and the other person.

Review:

1. Transparency
2. Trustworthiness
3. Tenderness

4) **Toughness** (vs. 9-13) - we treated you like a father treats his own children. A picture of firmness. *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*

- Paul was a hard worker...he didn't want to be a burden to them...he wasn't looking to profit from the ministry.
  - ✓ He made tents on the side so he could pay his own way.
- Paul served with integrity (vs. 10...we were devout and honest and faultless toward all of you believers).
  - ✓ He practiced what he preached. He was a good example.
  - ✓ To be devout is to be committed...dependable.
  - ✓ Honest, faultless...doesn't mean he was perfect...only that when he blew it, he got things right...admitted when he was wrong.
- He loved them like he was their dad (spiritual father).
  - ✓ Each "child" has their own unique personality, talent and skill.
  - ✓ **Vs. 11 (NKJV) - we exhorted, comforted and charged each one of you...**
    - Exhort = to come alongside.
    - Comfort = Encourage, listen, empathize.
    - Charge = Challenge them to reach their potential.
- Paul gave them the word of God. (vs. 13)
  - ✓ God's word works in the heart of man.
  - ✓ Hold up the standard for living and provide accountability.

**Job 23:12 ...I have not departed from his commands, but have treasured his words more than daily food.**

- ✓ God's word is bread (**Matthew 4:4**), milk and meat (**Hebrews 5:11-14**) and even honey (**Psalms 119:103**)...but it is not cake (only eaten on special occasions).

❖ Paul acknowledges they were facing trying times (vs. 14-16).

- Make it a point to know what is going on in the life of those you disciple.
  - ✓ They were in good company...other followers of Christ have faced similar challenges.
  - ✓ Paul said...we too are facing persecution...he could relate.
  - ✓ Don't seek revenge...they are piling up their sins and God will take care of them.

❖ Paul closes with:

5) You are God's **trophy** of **grace**. (vs. 17-20) *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*

- Paul tells them how he missed being with them.
  - ✓ You might have been out of our sights but you were never out of our mind, our hearts.
  - ✓ We want to see you (**intense longing**), but so far Satan has prevented it.

❖ When you get serious about making disciples...know this: Satan will oppose you, distract you, obstruct you.

- Paul says: you know what gives our life purpose, joy, satisfaction?
  - ✓ It is you!
  - ✓ Watching God transform your life, being a part of it gives us great joy!

❖ Heaven will be sweeter if we spend our days on earth discipling others.

**CLOSE:**

- The heart of a disciple:
  - Be transparent.
  - Be trustworthy.
  - Show tenderness.

- Express toughness when necessary. (firm)
  - Your trophy – watching God work in the lives of those you invest in.
- ❖ You need the heart of a shepherd if you are going to be an effective disciple maker.

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**Message Notes**  
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