

# DISCIPLE ONE

## THE PORTRAIT OF A DISCIPLE MAKER, PART 1

---

**OPEN:** Races are won and lost at the passing of the baton.

- Billy Graham: The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith.
- Unless the church makes a substantial breakthrough in attracting young people back to faith, Christianity in Britain is just "a generation away from extinction" – Archbishop of Canterbury.
  - ✓ We will either evangelize or fossilize.
- Not only are we to disciple those in our family, but as well...those in our community.
- The Apostle Paul invested his life in some young men in his day.
  - ✓ He met Timothy in his second missionary journey (**Acts 16**). We think Timothy to be in his late teens or early 20's.
  - ✓ He became Paul's right hand man.

**1 Corinthians 4:17(a) NLT** - That's why I have sent Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord...

**1 Thessalonians 3:2 (NLT)** - ...we sent Timothy to visit you. He is our brother and God's co-worker in proclaiming the Good News of Christ. We sent him to strengthen you, to encourage you in your faith,...

**Philippians 2:19-20 (NLT)** - <sup>19</sup> If the Lord Jesus is willing, I hope to send Timothy to you soon for a visit. Then he can cheer me up by telling me how you are getting along. <sup>20</sup> I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare.

- ✓ We know Timothy's mother and grandmother were believers, but we are not sure about his father... some think his dad had died when Paul stepped into his life.

- Paul writes Timothy two letters – 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy.
  - ✓ 2 Timothy Paul is coming to the end of his life and ministry.
  - ✓ He writes to encourage Timothy who has grown weary.
  - ✓ He may have been questioning his calling and ability.
  - ✓ He was ministering in Ephesus and facing some big challenges.
- Let's pick the account up in **2 Timothy 2**...here we see what a disciple-maker ought to be.
  - ✓ **Vs. 1 - Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus.**
  - ✓ Paul loved Timothy – calls him **my dear son**.
  - ✓ He knew he needed some encouragement – **be strong**...renew your commitment...it is easy to get beat down, grow weary...
  - ✓ Where is this strength found? **God gives you grace...it is found in Jesus Christ.**
    - We are saved by grace, kept by grace and we serve by grace.
    - The same grace that forgives us, empowers us.
  - ✓ Remind yourself: **Galatians 2:20 (NLT) - My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**
  - ✓ Paul was telling Timothy...Ephesus needs you...I'm telling you FBLeX needs you to make disciples.
- What does a disciple-maker look like (spiritual coach)?

1) A DISCIPLE-MAKER IS A **TEACHER**. *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

**2 Timothy 2:2 (NLT) - You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.**

- There are four generations mentioned. Paul runs the first lap, hands the baton to Timothy. Timothy runs the second lap and passes truth on to trustworthy (faithful) people who pass it on to others.
  - ✓ Pass on the truth...guard it, protect it, and share it.
  - ✓ You are running a leg of the race, others are counting on you...we all are to give it our best.
  - ✓ Look for faithful people (**Faitiful, Available, Intentional, Teachable, Hungry) invest your time in them and challenge them to invest in others.**
- By the way...these eternal truths are reliable...confirmed by eye witnesses.
  - ✓ We have been entrusted with spiritual treasure.

## 2) A DISCIPLE-MAKER IS A SOLDIER. *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

**2 Timothy 2:3-4 (NLT)** - <sup>3</sup> Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.

- Paul was familiar with the military, Rome had made her presence known...he found himself guarded (even shackled) to a Roman soldier.
  - ✓ In his letter to the church of Ephesus (where Timothy served as pastor) he spoke about spiritual warfare.

**Ephesians 6:10-12 (NLT)** - <sup>10</sup> A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

- He qualifies what kind of soldier...**be a good soldier**.

### a) A soldier must endure suffering. *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*

- ✓ Soldiers have to brave the weather, sleep out in the elements, face hardships...

- ✓ Are we willing to suffer for the cause of Christ? In some countries, Christians are threatened, their homes burned and some are dying for their faith.
  - ✓ While we enjoy freedom in America, we can certainly see our culture is becoming more hostile toward Christianity.
  - ✓ Paul was in the battle with Timothy...**endure suffering along with me**...he wasn't asking Timothy to do something he wasn't doing himself.
- ❖ When it comes to discipling kids, students...it may mean giving up something you like (comfortable) for a little craziness and chaos...required = endurance.

**b) A soldier is committed to pleasing the commander. (Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)**

- Keep your attention on Jesus.
  - ✓ Do not allow anyone or anything deter or distract you from your call and commitment to make disciples.
  - ✓ Some translations call this worldly entanglements.
    - Enjoy hobbies, sports, occasional pleasure trips, but do not let it consume you or figure out how to make disciples while doing these things.
- Make it your goal to please Christ...glorify, magnify Him.
  - ✓ Don't be a man pleaser, be a Christ pleaser.
  - ✓ We are not to live life for selfish pursuits, but we are to carry out the commands of Christ.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT) - <sup>19</sup> Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, <sup>20</sup> for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.**

**Review:**

1. A DISCIPLE-MAKER IS A TEACHER.
2. A DISCIPLE-MAKER IS A SOLDIER.

### 3) A DISCIPLE-MAKER IS AN ATHLETE. *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

**2 Timothy 2:5 (NLT)** – And athletes cannot win the prize unless they follow the rules.

- To participate in the Greek games you had to meet three qualifications:
  1. True born Greek – Greek citizen.
  2. Prepare at least 10 months prior to the games and swear to it before a statue of Zeus.
  3. Compete according to the rules. \*\*to fail in any of these was to disqualify yourself.
- Requirements for making disciples:
  1. Truly born again – citizen of Heaven.
  2. Faithful to prepare (study God's Word).
  3. Obey and live out the instructions of Scripture.
- Dedication and discipline is required.
- The Holy Spirit illuminates and motivates.
- We strive to live a Holy Spirit controlled life.

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NLT)** - <sup>24</sup> Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! <sup>25</sup> All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. <sup>26</sup> So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. <sup>27</sup> I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching (making disciples) to others I myself might be disqualified.

- ✓ To be clear...we are not competing against one another...trying to out-perform each other...our competition is against the flesh, world and the devil.

**CLOSE:** As you strive to make disciples you are:

- A teacher looking to pass on truth.
- A soldier willing to endure hardship.
- An athlete who is disciplined.

...Let us go and make disciples!

**Pastor Ralph Schneck  
First Baptist Church of Lexington  
Message Notes  
September 24, 2017**