

Knowing God: Reproducing Our Faith

Discipleship 201: Session 12

Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. Ephesians 3:8-10

Introduction: The calling of every Christian is to walk in an intimate relationship with God, and to reproduce our faith in the life of another person. In other words, we are called to mentor others in their faith journey, and to lead them to the same intimacy with God that we have been privileged to share.

The process of mentoring another Christian in order to multiply the work of God's church and to prepare others to replace us is a biblical principle.

- A. A portion of the Spirit upon **MOSES** was given to 70, so that his work might be multiplied. (Numbers 11:14-17)
- B. **ELIJAH**, like most prophets, had a following of disciples who were then blessed with a portion of the Spirit of God that was given to him. (II Kings 2:4-15)
- C. The people of Israel were chosen by God, not because they were in some way worthy, but so that they might be a **LIGHT** to the nations (Isaiah 42:5-7)
- D. Jesus had an inner circle of **3** disciples, a larger circle of 12, a larger circle of **70**, and then the largest circle of hundreds
- E. Many of the disciples, including Paul, **MENTORED** other disciples in order to multiply their ministry and to replace themselves.
- F. Every Christian is entrusted with the call to be a **LIGHT** to the nations. (Matthew 5:14-16)
 1. We do not do this by opening our doors on **SUNDAY**
 2. We do this when we mentor another to be a **DISCIPLE** of Christ
 3. We are a **HOLY** people
 - a. To be holy means to be "Set **APART**" for a purpose.
 - b. Holy people are those that represent **CHRIST** to the world.

Two Keys to being a Faith Mentor

- A. Knowing how much we have been **LOVED**

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16-17

 1. Love is the **WHOLE** of God's law (Matthew 22:36-40)
 2. God is a God of **ACTION**, not of doctrine and dogma, each expressing His love

3. The **APOSTLES** creed is a concise expression of the loving action of God.

a. God the **FATHER**

- 1) God gifted us with **LIFE** (Genesis 1-2)
- 2) God is **OMNIPOTENT** (Matthew 19:26)

b. God the **SON**

- 1) Jesus is God's **WORD** of Love (John 1:1-4; 14)
- 2) The virgin birth expresses the new **LIFE** being given through Jesus
- 3) His suffering and death is both an **EXPRESSION** of His love, and the act which gifts us salvation
- 4) His descent into **HELL** proves that there is nowhere we can go that is too far from the love of God (Psalm 139:7-12)
- 5) His resurrection proves His intent to gift us with new **LIFE** (Romans 6:1-11)
- 6) His ascension shows us that He is ever **PRESENT**, looking over our concerns, and preparing a place for us (John 14:1-7)
- 7) His **SECOND** coming is evidence of His mercy. (I John 14:3)

c. God the Holy **SPIRIT**

- 1) Jesus did not leave us with out a **COMFORTER** to guide us and direct us (John 14:16-26; 15:26)
- 2) This Spirit is given to **EVERY** Christian, not just a few select leaders, as in the Old Testament
- 3) The **CATHOLIC** church means the "universal" church, which is an indication that God wants to unite all Christians by the power of the Holy Spirit (John 17:1-26)
- 4) The communion of saints indicates that through Christ, God unites Christians of all ages as one Holy **FAMILY**.
- 5) The forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting is the message of grace **ENTRUSTED** to us.

We are not called to convince people of every dogma and doctrine of our particular congregation and denomination, only the message of grace given through Christ. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

d) The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are **ONE** God, coming to us as three **PERSONS**, each unique, expressing God's eternal plan to love us and bring us into His Kingdom.

B. Passing that love on to **OTHERS**

1. Every Christian should have a **MENTOR**
2. Every Christian should seek a circle of **3** to mentor, which should grow no larger than 12
 - a. Mentor them for **LIFE**
 - b. As you learn and grow in faith, you pass this on to your **DISCIPLES**.
 - 1) Faith is a process of growing in Christ (Ephesians 4:22-24)

- 2) We are called to be patient, as God has been patient with us
- c. We are not called to pass on a list of **LEGALISMS**
- d. We are called to pass on a God of love and **JOY**