

Qualities of An Effective Discipler

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Thursday, 9:00 pm

Coleman, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*

Agents of changing this world.

World evangelism in our generation – Student movement in 1900

Vision is not enough, even if it is God's vision.

We need methods and tools to get us to live it out.

The method of the Master is personal discipleship!

Waylon Moore – to shape us!

Here we are at 600.

Reaching the world through the process of my life being poured into your life and them pouring their life into others.

The right vision

The right method.

Neither one is enough.

Our culture has changed a great deal in a short time.

Assumption: if you give people enough information they will come to Christ.

All you are doing is helping them put it together.

Evangelism was putting those pieces together.

Now, in the post-modern world there is no picture in the box for them to refer to.

It takes a longer time. It is much more complicated!

We've been more selective than we can be now about who are target is.

We haven't gotten to job done because we've been selective.

The problem I want to talk about is the problems we have internally as disciplers.

Question: what kind of man or woman does God want me to be?

Text: 1 Thess 2

"For our exhortation does not *come* from error or impurity or by way of deceit; but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, **not as pleasing men, but God** who examines our hearts. For **we never came with flattering speech**, as you know, nor with a pretext for **greed**—God is witness— nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority. But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing *mother* tenderly cares for her own children. Having so fond an affection for you, we **were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us**. For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, *how* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly

and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; just as you know how we *were* exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father *would* his own children, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not as the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews, who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men, hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost. But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face. For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and *yet* Satan hindered us. For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.”

This is the kind of person Paul was, now what does this mean for me to imitate a godly man?

What is our motivation?

Motivations really do matter when it comes to doing anything.
What are they? The clarity of them affects our effectiveness.
Everyone is driven by motivations.

1. An Enduring Motivation!

I want to please God!

The basis is continuity of grace from God.

~ As you have received Christ...so walk in Him.”

~ How was Paul “approved”?

1 Cor 15:9-10

“For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, **but the grace of God with me.**”

~ Ministry, like salvation is a gift!

~ Ministry adds nothing to your acceptability before God.

Has the grace of God worked itself down into the real motivations of our hearts?

Most of you have seen the movie *Saving Private Ryan*

Touching scene at end of movies

On one level – such nobility!

He was alive because of the lives of several men he didn’t even know.

But what a burden, earn this. What could he do to justified the death of several men.

How could he know if he earned it.

Grace frees us to please God, not men.

~ **if you aren't under grace, you will be a man-pleaser.**

Like private Ryan you will look to others and results for your identity, acceptability and value.

~ **we will be on a roller coaster of legalism.**

If that is our motivation we can't be a disciple-maker.

~ Paul's ego is totally out of the way.

You will be trusted and effective only when God's view matters to you more than others' view.

~ If you are secure in grace, you can love truly in a selfless way.

II. An Imparting life

Discipleship is more than information transfer.

If it were we would just send you a book. *5 Easy Steps to Being a Disciple*

~ Content does matter!

“the word of God which performs it's work in you” v.13

~ Why our own lives too?

People are complex.

You have your issues.

What does the truth look like in my life?

We have to impart life! Relationship! Like a mother and a nursing child.

~ Spiritual change happens when we understand and apply God's Word and grace to the whole person.

Pastoral care happens in home groups.

Pastoral care happens when people share their lives with others.

You, must be changed!

What is the greatest catalyst for spiritual change?

Personal purity is very important!

But the emphasis of Scripture is love! NT morality and spiritual fruit are defined in terms of competence in love for others.

The quality of an effective discipler is that he/she is able to express this love in some way.

III. There is a Purpose-Centered Relating!

What is the goal of parenting?

Independently motivated, principled adults with their own convictions before God.

~ ***Controlling or leading?***

We cannot control people. We can't make people follow Christ.

What can we do? How can we lead?

By example!

1 Thess 1:6 Imitate us as we imitate Christ.

~ What does it look like?

In the Word together.

Talking about how it impacts our lives.

What will they think if you aren't living in an open, transparent way before them?

They will think that you come to a certain place in your Ctn life and you don't need to grow any more.

~ ***We've got to call for action!***

Exhort,

Encourage

Implore!

God's Word for you to resolve with God.

We need to introduce Godly tension.

Helping people put the pieces of their lives back together.

I've got this bitterness

They've sinned against me.

People can live their whole lives with that radar screen and just waiting for someone to offend them.

We need to teach them "be kind, tender-hearted forgiving others as God has forgiven you in Christ Jesus."

Summery:

Many people have sharpened their vision.

But don't leave this conference that if I have the right picture and these things in my toolbox I can do this. God's method is people. We need to live our lives to please God.

We need to be committed to imparting our lives by investing in people. And we need to be committed to the Word of God in our lives and in the lives of others.