

ADULT SS
BACKGROUND &
PURPOSE



ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

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What does making disciples of Jesus include?

- Making sure you yourself are a disciple
- Engage people intentionally
- Teach people what Jesus said
- Love souls
- Be careful of cloning ourselves – a slow process, soil – how are we cultivating soil that seed is growing in
- Ask, “ Why do we want to make disciples?”
 1. Commanded
 2. Why would we want to follow Jesus? (Establishing Value)
- Learning under God to follow Jesus – then helping others to follow Jesus
- Share gospel with them

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What does making disciples of Jesus include? – cont.

- Trust/allow Spirit to work w/ seed of gospel
- Asking what does God want them to hear/seeking
- Continued growth with it encouragement
- Trust God - obedience
- Acknowledging to be a disciple
- Sense of need and desire for change
- Identify areas that need to be strengthened while we work & watch for work of God to take hold (firm foundation)

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WHAT DOES MAKING DISCIPLES INCLUDE?

Colossians 1:28 - 2:7

Specific Goal: present every individual complete in Christ; each encouraged, knit together in love, attaining to all wealth that comes from the full assurance of a true knowledge of Christ

Includes: struggle, making your presence and intention felt, correction, teaching, protect against false doctrine, wisdom to give specific path for growth for each

Means: striving according to His power which mightily works within me.

Ephesians 3:14, 16-17; 4:13-19

Specific Goal: unity of the faith, maturity (growing up in all aspects into Christ, the Head of the body)

Includes: each member contributing to this growth as they take their place speaking truth to each other toward this end

Means: strengthened with power through His Spirit so Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith and rooted and grounded in fullness of God's love, filled to fullness of God

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WHAT DOES MAKING DISCIPLES INCLUDE?

Galatians 4:10-20

Specific Goal: My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you

Includes: heartbreak; at times being considered the enemy; pursuing them and vying for their affection; being immersed among them (not just speaking at them) which necessitates prioritizing issues that come up—examining values, experiences, and seeking to change focus; engaging what examine

Galatians 6:1-2

Specific Goal: pursuing, bearing burdens with, and restoring those “**caught in any trespass**”

Includes: being aware of soul condition of those around you and getting involved with what see; watching own life in responses to God, them, and goals of fulfilling law of Christ; recognize that they might not see what you see and deal with all that is between what you and they see

Means: **you who are spiritual** (not fleshly—means dealing w flesh in own life); **spirit of gentleness** (coming from humility of recognizing own weakness/sin/vulnerabilities)

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WHAT DOES MAKING DISCIPLES INCLUDE?

Hebrews 10:21-26

Specific Goal: hold fast confession of our hope without wavering; stimulate one another to love and good deeds

Includes: not forsaking assembling together, encouraging to remember our position of being made righteous (no further sacrifice) and treasure of fellowship; daily examination our soul/their soul for all that separates from God; showing weakness of all other sources of identity and stability

Means: the faithfulness of Christ, our great high priest who brings us to God;

I Peter 1:15 - 2:5

Specific Goal: Be holy as God is holy

Includes: fervently love other believers from the heart by obeying 2:1 (get rid of deceit, envy, etc.) and craving the pure milk of the Word—teaching others to do the same

Means: conduct yourselves in fear (remembering who God is [holy] and what He bought you with [God blood]); believe in God's means of making you holy—Jesus' life, death, resurrection; trust the Word of God that brings this salvation to you and continues to work in your life

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Where is Col. 2:4 delusion coming from?

- Identify in Christ not your identity
- Something other than God's word is final
- Living by something inside yourself or other than Christ, Gal. 3, Col. 2:8 – therefore power comes apart from Christ
- Where problem is, where solution lies (ie. Person, situation, needs to change to have hope/life). No, everything exposed in our lives not Christlike is what needs changed, INCLUDING seeing provision that comes from Christ

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- 1. Discipling is the FRUIT, not the ROOT of our following Christ.**
- 2. Get the Identity right and the mission will follow.**
- 3. While going too deep into things of God without application can leave God's truth seemingly irrelevant for life and service, application without a careful foundation leads to life and service with a gaze away from Christ.**

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What would be some of the inhibitors to us cultivating this germ of following Jesus ourselves and helping others follow Jesus in the church?

- Time (busy lives) can't connect with others because of schedules
- Humility – Phil. 2 – thinking of others higher (find out about what you see and be willing for things to get a little awkward)
- World perspective (i.e. Eph. 6:12) Our struggle is not against flesh & blood...
- i.e. What is our greatest struggle – often not an Eph. 6:12 struggle
- So many competing visions/agendas – even what you DO for Jesus
- 1 Cor. 10:31 all to glory of God – must reflect how He is glorified in the mundane – if we don't do this for ourselves then won't for them
- Too much focus on what we need, understand, or think valuable
- Fail to see big picture (whole picture), we get lost in what we see and do (ie. Who do you talk to at church and why – where heading)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What would be some of the inhibitors to us cultivating this germ of following Jesus ourselves and helping others follow Jesus in the church? (CONT.)

- At times, so concerned about doing it wrong that don't do (follow), think, speak
- Matt. 19:20 – not seeing His reward as precious
- Recognizing how much of a mess we can make in the name of Jesus when we try to help them follow Jesus. It is easy to look for other ways to “help” people and to “please” Jesus.
- Fail to see God's hand in working through our inadequacies to accomplish His plans
- Don't have time or energy to do it all
- Wrong understanding of Church where we don't feel responsibility for those meet/worship with (family vs. Church)

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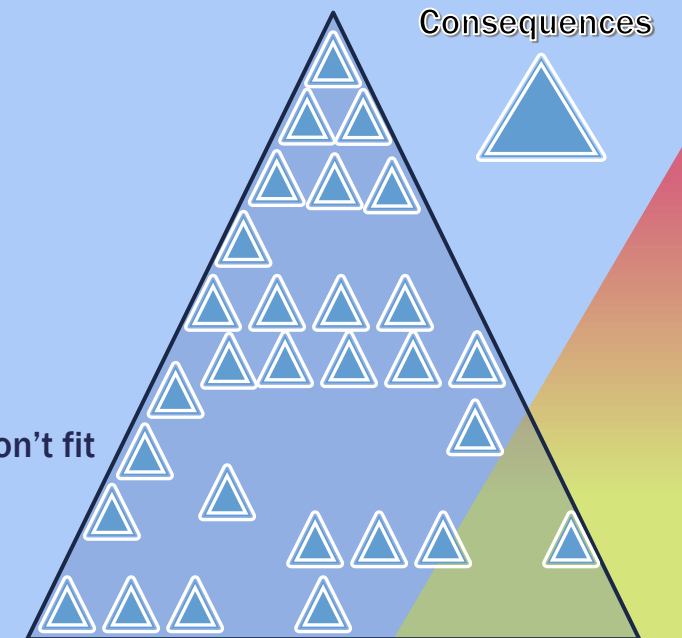
What is needed to fight the fear of man?

- Making decisions based on who is there/will find out
- Overthinking: if I say.. then they will think if I don't say...
- Motives lead to focus i.e. focus on man by protecting self or proving self
- Evangelism – what will they think of me
- Listening
- Questions that we don't have the answers to
- Easy to think we can't represent Holy God and therefore refuse to participate in small part
- Found in what we need from people around us
- Approval, not stand out for what not culturally acceptable – also add things so others don't think don't fit

How to weaken fear of man?

- Please God
- Appreciate what has been given you by God through Christ
- By examining whose opinions matter most
- Examining our expectation of the Christian life (i.e. evidence of redemption now)

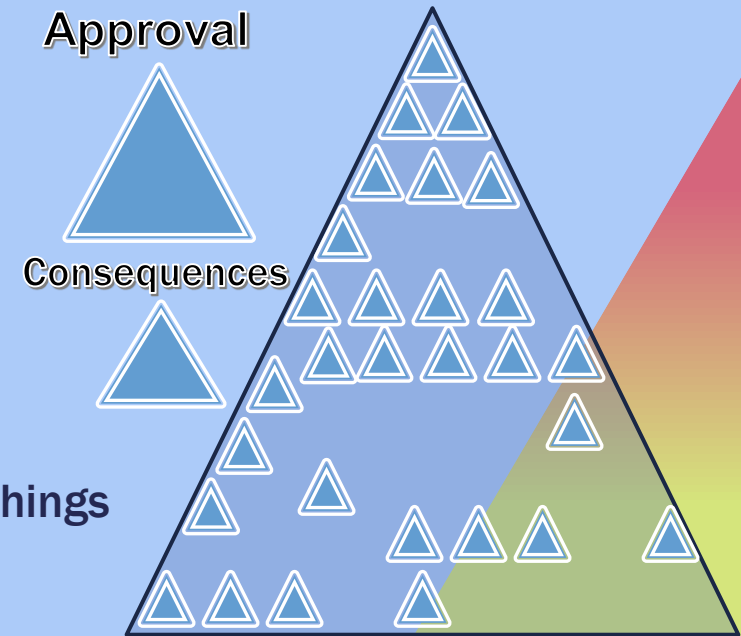
- Looking beyond – listen
- Studying God's word to grow in fear of God



ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What is needed to fight the fear of man?

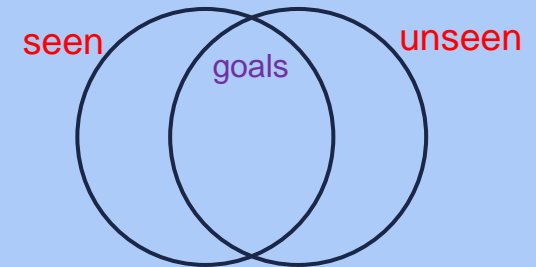
- ❑ Approval, not stand out for what not culturally acceptable
 - also add things so others don't think don't fit
 - Need to belong
 - Looking at immediate for affirmation/satisfaction rather than faith
 - Where is the weight of the consequences
 - Here/right now or there w/ God later
 - Standard & means to have successful life
 - Analyze how & with whom I'm interacting, what rules I follow to make things work



ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

How to weaken fear of man?

- Please God
 - Appreciate what has been given you by God through Christ
 - By examining whose opinions matter most
 - Examining our expectation of the Christian life (i.e. evidence of redemption now unseen treasure more than seen)
 - Submitting to Christ
 - Acknowledging self-focus where we see it *look beyond in prayer & when we read Word
 - Where is weight of consequences (judgment)
-
- Looking beyond – listen
 - Studying God's word to grow in fear of God



ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

How do we cross the bridge of them not wanting help OR not thinking that where/how you focus is the right focus and dismissing you?

- Different ways of continuing than just pushing issues, More than one tool (i.e. listen for what else they say/do that gives insight to values/goals)
- With God's love and word
- Not pull out completely (evangelism can't stop because they don't want it or want you)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What would be some of the inhibitors to us cultivating this germ of following Jesus ourselves and helping others follow Jesus in the church?

- 1. Oversimplifying the solution**
- 2. Analyzing/Intending without actively following**
- 3. Seeking Solutions/Growth without including the necessary pieces for change**
- 4. Seeing the church as a consumer** (even when desiring growth and service) **rather than as a place to be exposed and sanctified as you fulfill all God's intent for your part in the church**

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How would following Jesus deal with these inhibitors?

- Still be zealous to care for needs you do see while looking to care for deeper needs – can't follow Jesus w/o being compelled to look for soul needs
- Do what you can see (Do watch “When Helping Hurts”)
- Remember that He is w/ us in the situation (what does Jesus promise to those who abide in Him?)
- John4 – while not oversimplifying, Jesus got to main heart issue
- Know God's will by I John 2:5-6 knowing Him
- Go to God (John 1:15) then “baby steps”
- Biblical Stewardship & going back to the basic: Bible reading/pray – but where are we focusing in these Habits of Grace? Pray for outside in view of the eternal

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Article: “Avoiding Quick Repairs in Counseling” Biblical Counseling Coalition

- Rom.8:29 says that “getting fixed” is a life-long process so not the hopeless “chiropractor syndrome” but intentional abiding that leads to pruning & fruit that lasts for eternity
- What creates anxiety? If we can’t deal w/ how gospel speaks to anxiety, then have little to offer those of Christ (submit to Not about Me, what gospel do we offer/live)
- No quick fix – Bible says “we have need of endurance”(Abel lived righteous life & was killed for it while Cain lived & had children, etc.)
- Focus on God Himself & how short we fall from Him then just focusing on fixing the “sin”
– Truth is a “person” Abide

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What do we need to do to strengthen this germ/root of following Jesus in our lives individually and as a church?

- Don't forget centrality of the message in overwhelming daily life that not only speaks to you , but must be given to them
- Preaching and teaching Col.1:28 Proclaim Him (Christ is center)
- Eph.3:14-21 what are you praying for yourself & others? move towards them
- Text in cracks – carefully handle what's here & go to Christ
- Think about reality of death (more serious about following Christ, Listening to His word, change priorities)
- Hold priorities up for scrutiny – expose where we live for ourselves
- Consumers when we start but when that becomes a part, acknowledge that there will be excruciatingly hard times IN relationship – II Cor. 1:8-11
- What is my part – Eph. 4:16, II Cor. 1:3, Col. 3:16
- Momentary light affliction, Eternal weight of glory – perspectives lift needed so don't fit God in cracks (world of NT seems like battle/unreal but supposed to be ordinary Christian life)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

How would you strengthen this germ/root of following Jesus in our lives individually and as a church?

- Honest in intentions
- Listen/collect first with conversations, learn how to open conversations & discover “lay of land”
- Learn God’s purpose for relationship so create relationships that allow for the purpose (touch & intent w/ soul)
- By respecting/fearing One greater than fear of man (must respect authorities – God over all)
- ❖ Answering our fears, insecurities, indignations with aspects of the gospel (sufficiency of gospel) ie. Eph.6 Armor of God
- First acknowledging the work of the Holy Spirit & the Power of Prayer. Second practice it or should become part of our lives consistently (by God’s grace) in order to strengthen those roots.

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What is your intent with conversations?

- Encourage one another daily – Col.4:6
- Watch only safe/comfort, also watch “telling it like it is” & walking away – light pressure looking to Christ
- Stimulating others knowledge of God – where have you seen/grown in sufficiency of Christ
- Often, it is selfish – holy or otherwise (they help me grow or I’m being a good Christians by talking to them – instead how would focusing on Him more in this conversation, glorify God (make me free from fear of man, make me look at what God sees in them)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What does Acts 20:17-38 Say about discipleship?

- Commitment to cause perseverance
- Setting a standard & living example
 - V. 26-27, innocent of blood of all, gave whole counsel of God
- Battlefield
- Humility that led to “not shrinking back”
- What are the areas characterized as wolves
- Living in the material & responsible for sustaining himself while completing the task God gave him
- Holy Spirit prominent in Paul’s mind sharing yielding to will, power & provision of another
- Life & Ministry is stewardship from a Holy God
- Personal relationship DEEP (tears 3 times) b/c of ownership of responsibility for discipleship
- Influence he had through work & service (conscious of example through trials, teaching, living)
- vv.18-20 learn our discipleship from our leaders (Jn.13:12-14 wash feet) – actively seek follow those God placed over

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What does Acts 20:17-38 say about discipleship? (CONT.)

- Effects in our circle of influence
- Earnestly desired Paul's presence and leadership
- Concerned/grieving because of personal tie but also because of protection
- Dangerous to only hear part of the message
- Have to look inside with those around for wolves as care for whole flock
- Words matter/life backed it up (trust)
- Necessity of more and more interaction as result of following Christ and accomplishing mission (identity and mission clear)

Who is a wolf?

- False teachers that twist truth for their ends
- Not obvious — so must be together for long time before can see “teeth”

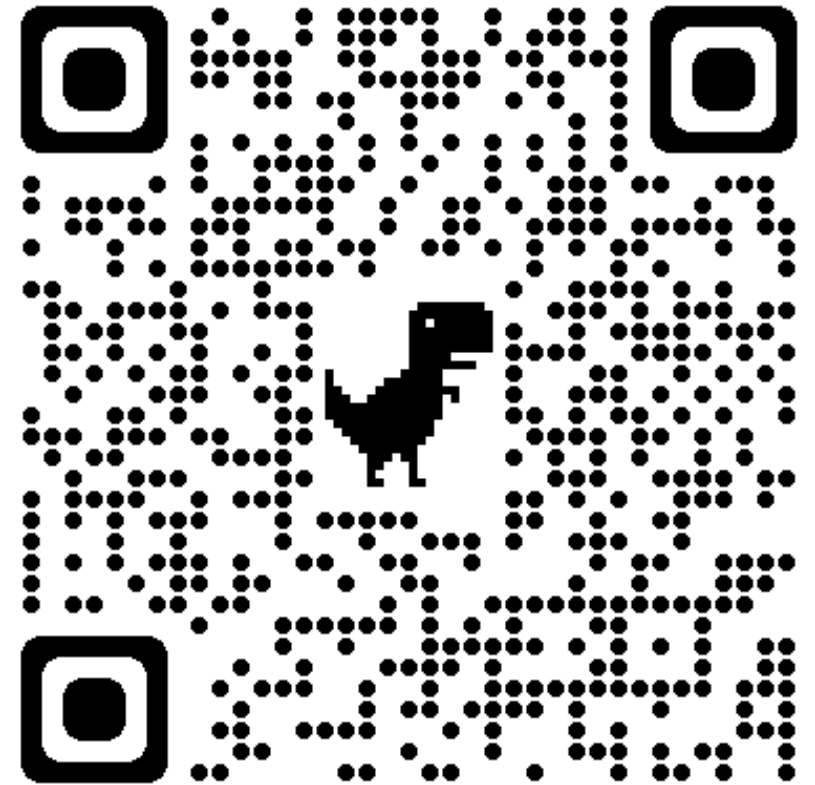
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What does Acts 20:17-38 say characterizes wolves?

- Masquerade, uses right words
- Here among us
- Distorting the truth (perverse, twisted)
- Perhaps material gain, but definitely have or seek to use influence
- Cunning with influence – timing & weak ones
- Not concerned about whole counsel of God or sanctification – v. 27, 32
- V. 31 – care, personal involvement in mess and danger (2 Tim. 2:24-26)
- Not focused where shepherd focused – teaching all even in face of conflict and rejection, not willing to do what it takes to pursue “them”

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

- 1. Are Churches Losing the Battle to Form Christians?**
by: Brett McCracken, Gospel Coalition



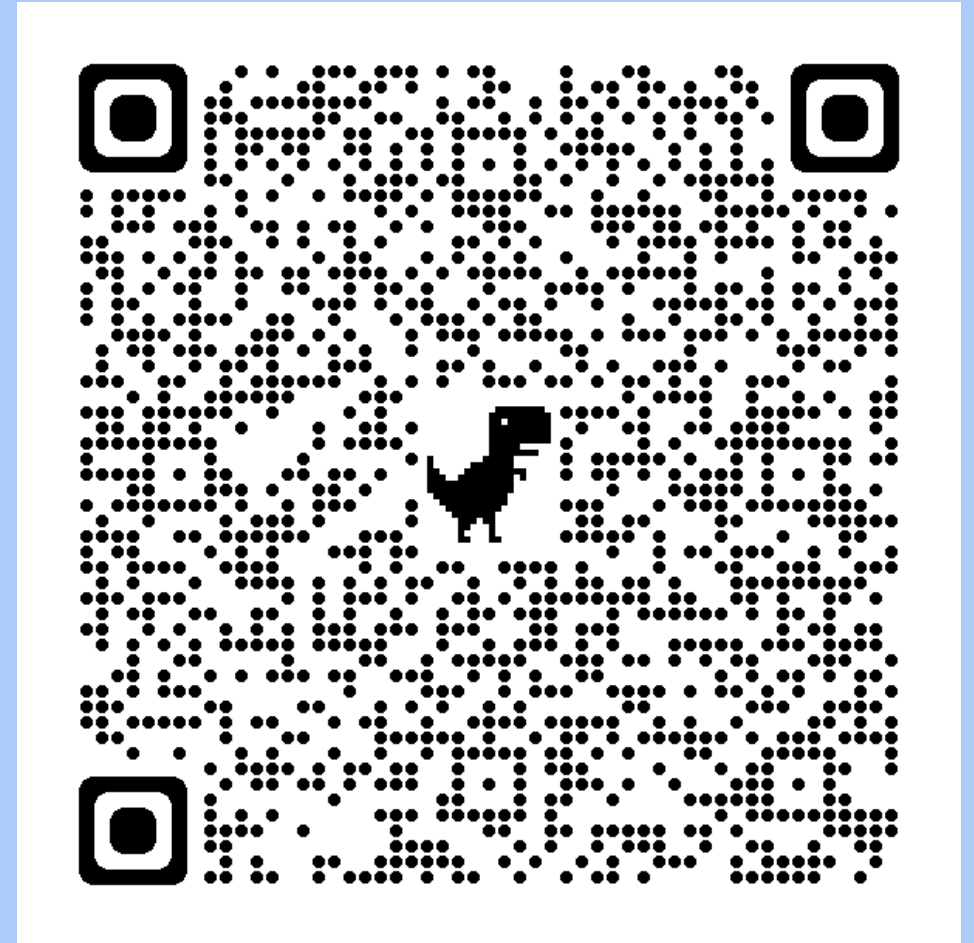
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Respond to “Are Churches Losing the Battle to Form Christians?” article

- We are not versed in the word of God, have a personal theology based on pieces we've gathered out of context.
- So many choices that it is easy to find ones that are relevant and in agreement with us
- Self is so strong that it easily dominates when many we have options
- Don't naturally see, appreciate “value” of God & the gospel & mission He has for us (Jer. 17:5-10), trying to solve our problems can lead us away from God
- Not a simple solution – therefore, don't look for silver bullet, be willing to have things that “don't fit” – start slowly looking for common foundations & final word of God
- Knowing we are sheep than looking to follow Shepherd once learn that not wolves (examine where not following or could follow)
- Trend to deemphasize formal church
- Are we studying the scriptures so that the scriptures speak more the culture/media?
- We are influenced by the minutia of what we consume

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2. BCC Classic: Five Indicators of a Healthy and Transforming Soul Care Ministry by: Garrett Higbee



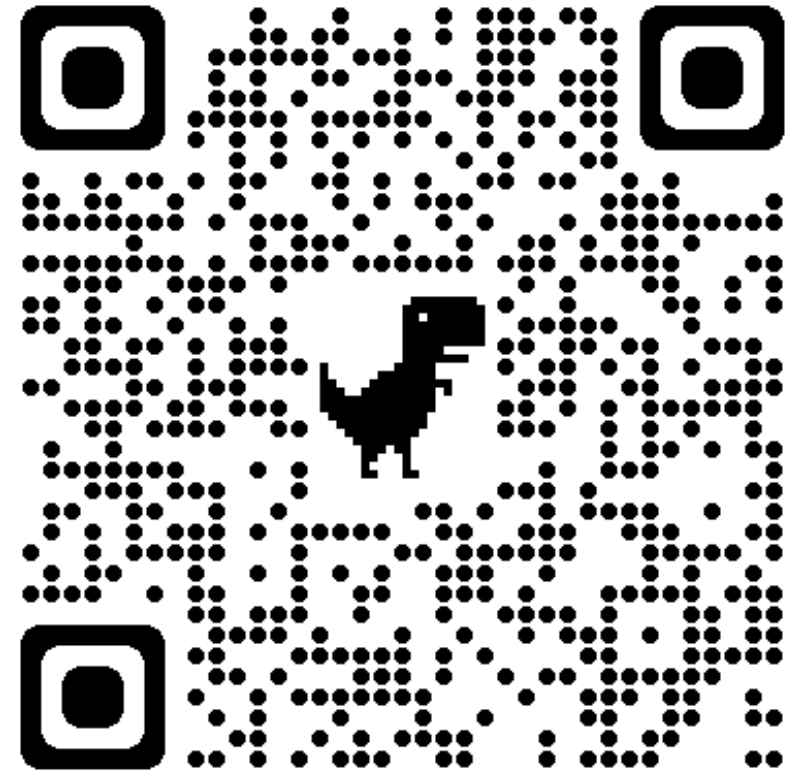
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Respond to “Five Indicators of a Healthy and Transforming Soul Care Ministry” article

- Requires “all in” disciples
- So many pieces that don’t fit easily together
- Equipping implies a direction and a source – we don’t naturally want to go where God wants us to go
- Feels overwhelming - to grow, must start – must start small
- This isn’t secondary issue – this is being a Christian (Phil. 1:23) “I am torn between the two...more necessary for you that I remain in the body”
- Seem far from this (protect ourselves, not really caring for each other)
- Intense training required
- Attitude of accompanying Spirit-led people not just an event (process not merely conversion) what is required for life in Christ
- Is rearranging flesh always wrong? (balance & intertwined)
- Dangerous to have power & activity of God & head in opposite direction as God
- How is God glorified? Why is God’s glory involved w/ everything?

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3. Five Reasons We Don't Disciple (Part 1)



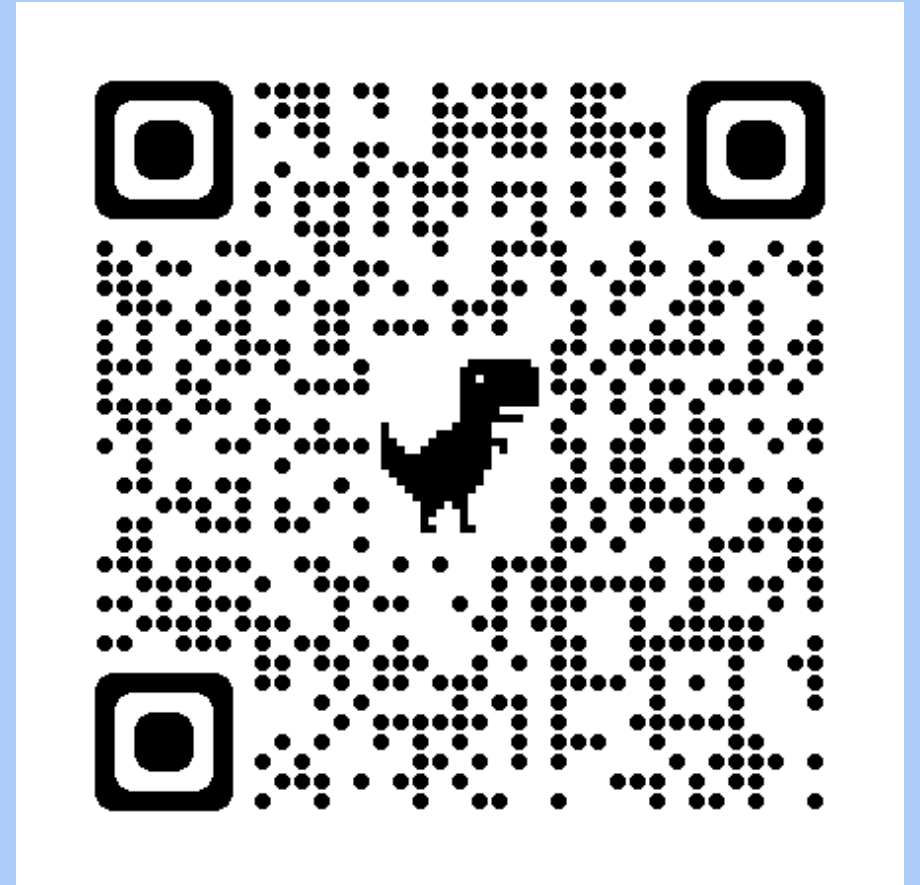
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Respond to “Five Reasons We Don’t Disciple Pt. 1” article

- Two roads – one where we determine what loving God looks like (moralism) vs. the Calvary road (cross) where God decides what following includes
- Danger on focusing on all the cost paid at salvation with nothing more that costs afterwards
- Necessitates central presenting of gospel
- Must be clear regeneration or “works” to please God
- Christ becoming “a curse for us” shows that it costs and that it matters

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

4. Five Reasons We Don't Disciple (Part 3)



ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

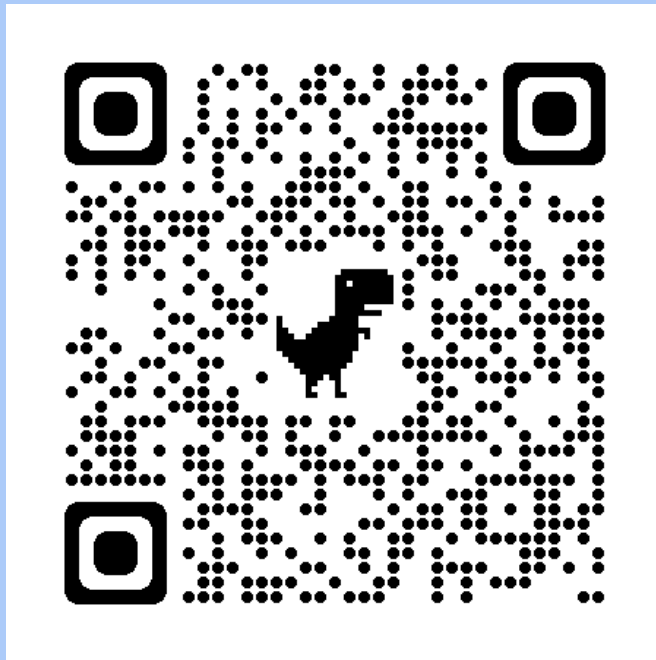
Respond to “Five Reasons We Don’t Disciple Pt. 3” article

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Why will following Jesus individually/together naturally result in a culture of **discipling, evangelism, raising up leaders, church planting, and missions**? (What is the tie? How do they flow from each other?)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

5. What is the Mission of the Church by: AJ Gibson



ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Underlying Assumptions/Goals in Adult SS for church as whole:

- 1. We must shift our focus from personal maturity and growth to building healthy churches.**
- 2. We must focus on the roots, not merely the fruit.**

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 9

CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021

IF we do NOTHING else together, the Collective People of God must:

- I. Worship God Together.** Romans 15:5-6
- II. Grow Individually and Corporately with a Growth that Comes from God.** Eph. 4:15-16
- III. Protect/Defend the Name of God—His character and Eternal Purposes.** II Tim. 1:13-14
- IV. Own the People in the Particular Expression of the Body of Christ where God has Placed you.** I Cor. 12:18, Eph. 4:16
- V. Spread the Glory of God** Hab. 2:14, I Pet. 2:9

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

We have looked at public worship services, relationships, growth, culture, now finally, What would need to be lifted up/allowed if want to build healthy churches with strong roots in **faithful service**?

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Through the lens of these two goals, what were some of the changes hoped for by intentionally changing the goals during our *Future Grace* study leading to an 8 year study of that book? (longer studies over the years preceding)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that **you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;**

Philippians 1:27

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ² **make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.**

Philippians 2:1-2