

Concluding Thoughts

Our spiritual involvement and discipling of each other does not make us any better than our discipling partner. We are called to humbly give to, pray for, and lay down our lives to help each other become more like Jesus Christ!

LIFE APPLICATION - PERSONAL EVALUATION

Q: Are you involved in discipling another Christian?

Q: If not, what is preventing you?

Q: What are the three things that qualify a Christian to disciple another Christian?

Evaluate (rate yourself) how you believe you are doing with the ten golden rules:

- Motivating by grace
- Allowing no stumbling blocks
- Being an example & model
- Expecting emotional connection
- Providing biblical instruction & expectation
- Reminding of God's promises for motivation
- Protecting the relationship
- Being honest about personal struggles
- Evaluating progress
- Spreading good reports

After completing this exercise, sit down with the people you are discipling and talk through this.

Get their perspective about how you are doing in these areas.

By Dave Pocta

GROUNDED

FOUNDATIONS OF DISCIPLING CLASS 06: DISCIPLING OTHERS

A Bible Study

Introductory Thoughts

One of the great blessings and responsibilities of being a disciple of Jesus is helping others to live as Jesus did. We are all a "work in progress" and yet [Colossians 3:16](#) speaks:

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom...

We are all called to spiritually engage with one another. We do this with the power of the Holy Spirit as God's word dwells in our hearts. We communicate God's love with each other and share the wisdom we have received from following his teachings.

CALLING ALL CHRISTIANS

Christians can struggle with different extremes regarding discipling others.

NOT ENGAGED IN DISCIPLING OTHERS

Many Christians do not engage in discipling others. Some are insecure. They believe that they are not qualified or able to help someone else. Others are living a distracted or self-absorbed life. The scriptures call us all to be involved with our brothers and sisters, daily.

Hebrews 3:12, 12:15 We are all called to "see to it" with one another

- » That no one has a sinful, unbelieving heart but is encouraged daily
- » That no one falls short of the grace of God and no bitter root grows up

AUTHORITATIVE OR ARROGANT DISCIPLING

Many **do** embrace the call to disciple someone but become arrogant, bossy, or condescending with their discipling partner. They can view themselves as "superior" or "more spiritual." This attitude is clearly admonished in scripture:

Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus tells us not to "lord it over" or "exercise authority" over one another.

Romans 12:10 We are told to honour one another above ourselves. Discipling should be to give and serve.

WHAT QUALIFIES YOU?

We all must embrace this calling to disciple others, and yet avoid the pitfalls of arrogance. How should we view each other and where does our spiritual authority come from?

Galatians 3:26-29 The cross qualifies us. We are all children of God. No one is superior.

1 Corinthians 2:12-16 The Spirit qualifies us. Disciples of Jesus have the "mind of Christ" as they are empowered by the Spirit.

- » We are called to explain spiritual realities to each other
- » We are called to make spiritual judgments about "all things"¹
 - Spiritual condition (walk with God, righteousness, integrity, purity, etc.)
 - Marriage, parenting, and home life
 - Example, employer/employee, etc.

¹ And yet we must remember [Matthew 7:2](#). We will be judged with the same standard that we judge others. Our desire should be to call others higher as we ourselves want to be called higher!

Romans 15:4 The Word qualifies us. It teaches us all as we apply it to each other's lives.

Romans 15:14 Christians have the knowledge and competency to counsel one another.

TEN GOLDEN RULES

In [2 Corinthians 6 & 7](#) we witness Paul having a "discipling time" with the Corinthian church.

Paul models the heart, motivation, and approach in healthy discipling relationships.

1) MOTIVATED BY GRACE

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

- » We must see each other as equals, co-workers in the Kingdom of God
- » We also must expect that God's grace will produce action and transformation

2) NO STUMBLING BLOCKS

2 Corinthians 6:3, 7:2

- » Our desire should be to keep others from stumbling because of us
- » We need to have honest relationships and talk freely with each other

3) EXAMPLE & MODEL

2 Corinthians 6:4-10

- » We must embrace the call to be a model for other disciples
- » Our attitude should be, "I am in this with you...let's fight together!"

4) EXPECTATION OF EMOTIONAL CONNECTION

2 Corinthians 6:11-13

- » Our discipling relationships must be emotionally connected
- » We must lead with humility and affection, expecting them to also give their heart

5) BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION & EXPECTATION

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

- » Paul was applying the Old Testament to their situation
- » Our walk with God needs to be the source of helping others

6) GOD'S PROMISES & OUR MOTIVATION

2 Corinthians 7:1

- » A significant part of discipling someone is reminding them of what they have in Christ
- » God's grace and his promises are fundamental to our motivation

7) PROTECT THE RELATIONSHIP

2 Corinthians 7:2-4

- » All of our relationships will take strain and be tested
- » It takes great effort, honest discussion and expression to protect our relationships

8) REAL AND HONEST WITH PERSONAL STRUGGLES

2 Corinthians 7:5-7

- » Our vulnerability endears others to us and gives them courage to be real themselves
- » Strive for spiritual responses in tough times, knowing the power of example

9) EVALUATE PROGRESS

2 Corinthians 7:8-12

- » We must address tough topics that may initially "cause sorrow" (Not all hurts are bad!)
- » Good discipling of others pays attention to spiritual repentance and growth

10) SPREAD GOOD REPORTS

2 Corinthians 7:13-16

- » Our communication with others about our discipling relationships should be positive²
- » We want people to see the good in our discipling partners

² Even though Paul and the Corinthians had a strained relationship (see [2 Corinthians 6:12,7:4](#)), Paul was boasting about them ([2 Corinthians 7:14](#))