

The New Testament Church
Mentoring More in 2024 – Session 1 – What is Discipleship?
December 31, 2023 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I The Dominion Charter and Great Commission

- A. Dominion Charter – Genesis 1:26-28
 1. God gave mankind dominion (best understand as responsibility) over creation
 2. This responsibility (stewardship) for the culture began with the individual, the family (business), church (priesthood), and ultimately to the nations of the world (Gen. 10)
- B. Great Commission – Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20
 1. Christ has all authority in heaven and earth, and He has delegated some to the church!
 2. We are to *preach the gospel* – evangelize – by example and word
 3. We are also to *disciple* – declare truth and help people learn it as well (relational)
 - a. The Greek word for disciple is mathēteusate “to be a pupil... enroll as a scholar” – it emphasizes the need for each individual to seek to learn and practice truths
 - b. The Greek word for teaching is didaskontes “to teach, direct or admonish” and this emphasizes the need for leaders in the church to teach truths that are true

II The Scope of Discipleship

- A. The Holy Spirit disciples our spirit – John 3:3-6; 16:8-13
 1. The Spirit will convict us of sin, unrighteousness, and judgment (discernment)
 2. He will guide us into the truth (Jesus, the Word), not speaking of Himself, implying that the fruit of being led by the Spirit will be seen in the truth of the Word – not mystical
- B. The Son will disciple our minds – Romans 12:1-2 (one body of Christ)
 1. We observe premises of God’s Word, pondering truths (keep your mind stayed on me)
 2. We learn to apply that Word to the issues of our lives and culture
 3. In this way we can fulfill the will of God for our lives, testing it
- C. The Father will disciple our character – 2nd Corinthians 1:3-4
 1. It is the Father that allows the pressures of life to reveal where we are in our training
 2. *God will play each of us at the level of our training (Peacocke)*, and training requires working with and investing in people
 3. Whatever we are learning, for instance, we are able to share with others...

III Discipleship is practical mentoring – *sanctification* or growing in the Lord - maturing

- A. Mentoring takes many forms
 1. It is in prayer for others – Ephesians 6:18
 2. Your example of how you are living – 2nd Thessalonians 3:7-9
 3. It is teaching – 2nd Timothy 3:16
 4. Exhorting - sharing a life lesson – Hebrews 3:13
 5. Encouragement (implore, give solace) – Barnabas (son of encouragement) - Acts 4:36
 6. Restoring another in a spirit of gentleness - bridge must be strong – Galatians 6:1
- B. This year, we will be encouraging each of you to mentor others, beginning simply
 1. Recognize that the two to five people you call first is probably a mentoring group
 2. Isolation will not prepare you for the future, so consider investing in others (hospitality)
 3. Consider joining a small group already functioning (see the bulletin list)
 4. Pray about where God may want you to invest in others