

HOW DO I MAKE DISCIPLES



WHO MAKE DISCIPLES?



Introduction

The most staggering achievement in human history, apart from Jesus' vicarious sacrifice on the cross for our sins, is the rapid spread of the gospel throughout the world, from the first century A.D. until the present. From a small band of uneducated and untrained disciples, people from every nation have repented of their sins and placed their faith in Christ alone for their eternal life. A.B. Bruce, the author of the classic book, *The Training of the Twelve*, beautifully portrays this accomplishment in his opening paragraph: "On display before us is the infant church in its cradle, the small headwaters of the River of Life, the earliest blossoms of the Christian faith, the humble origin of the mighty empire of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Introduction

Since those early days, every generation has had to reclaim Jesus' command to make disciples of all the nations. Making new converts and bringing them to spiritual maturity is, indisputably, at the heart of Jesus' Great Commission. The Gospel accounts reveal that when Jesus was training the Twelve, He was not only looking **at** these men; He was looking **through** them. ("Anyone can count the seeds in an apple; but only God can count the apples in a seed"). While He was loving them, shaping their lives, and sanctifying them in the truth (Jn. 17:17), He was also training these future Apostles to lift up their eyes to a plentiful harvest of lost sheep (Mt. 9:37-38) and become the leaders of a vast, worldwide movement.

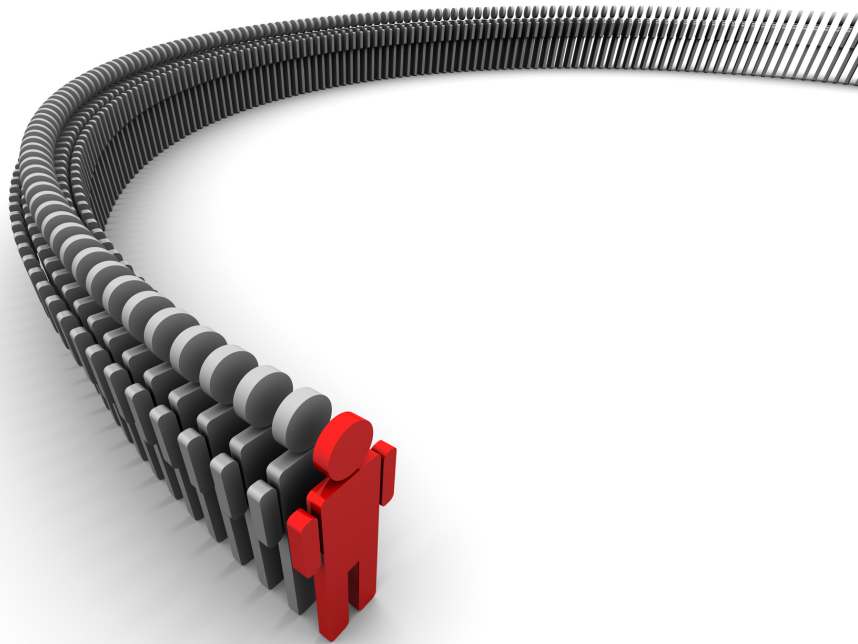
Introduction

These first disciples who had been trained by Jesus to take the gospel to the world clearly understood that they were not only called to shepherd believers to spiritual maturity but also to equip and prepare them to do their part in the evangelization of the world.

Jesus' strategy has never been annulled; it has been ignored. His followers must faithfully and continually make new, reproducing disciples, who make new disciples, who make new disciples....Spiritual multiplication must be at the heart of true biblical discipleship, for Christianity is only one generation away from extinction.

Why do you think Jesus' strategy has been ignored?

10 Primary Reasons Christians Do Not Reproduce



1. Feelings of unworthiness
2. Insufficient training and preparation
 - a. They do not know how
 - b. They do not know what
3. Disobedient lifestyle
4. Misplaced priorities
5. Overbooked calendar

10 Primary Reasons Christians Do Not Reproduce

6. Spousal disapproval
7. Program-oriented
8. Missing life purpose
9. Fear
 - a. Of failure
 - b. Of vulnerability
 - c. Of commitment
10. Temperament and gift mix



Charles Spurgeon

“I would quite as soon not be as live to be a useless thing. Better far to fatten the fields with one’s own corpse, than to lie rotting above ground in idleness.”



Charles H. Spurgeon

1834-1892

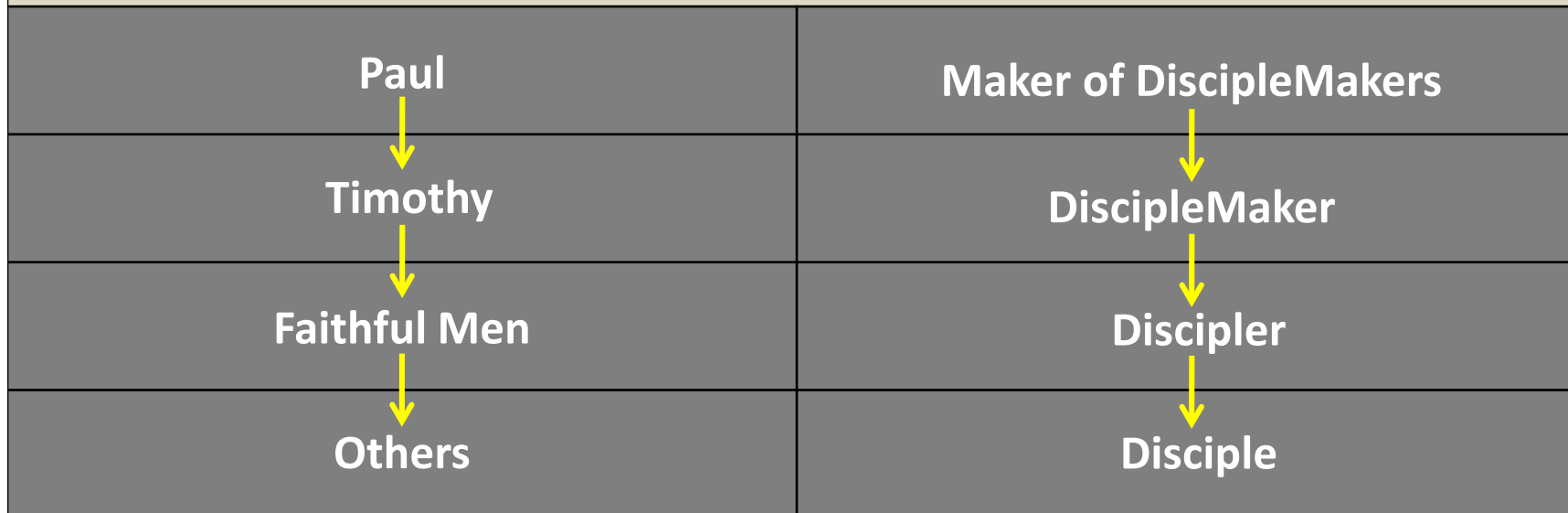
Spiritual Multiplication



Remember the Power of Spiritual Multiplication

Spiritual Multiplication

“And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also” (II Timothy 2:2).



The Power of Multiplication



“Checkers – put one grain of rice on the first block. Then double it in the next block. Then double that one, etc. By the time you get to the last block, you have enough grain to cover the land of India with rice six feet deep.”

- Dr. Howard Hendricks

The Permanence of the Mission



“Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.”

Dr. Howard Hendricks

“Effective ministries are not determined by their size, but by their significance. I am so weary of hearing people tell me how large their church is. My friend, I couldn’t care less about the size of your church.”

“Our greatest need is not church growth. I think I will throw up the next time I hear this. The greatest need is church health. You show me a healthy



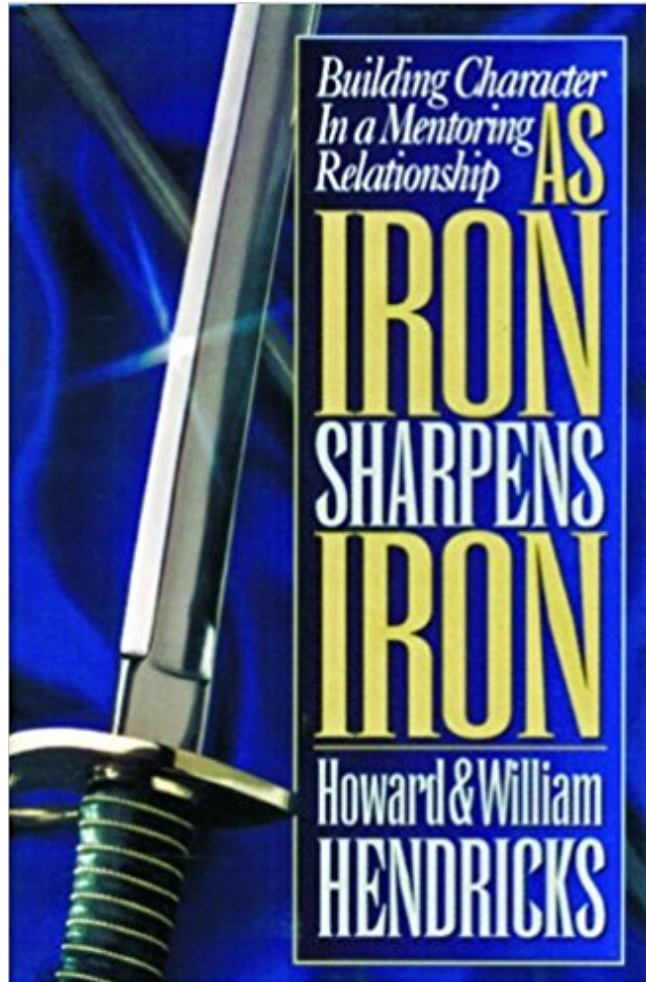
Dr. Howard Hendricks

1924-2013

Dr. Howard Hendricks

church and I will show you a growing church. If not numerically, for whatever reason, it will always grow spiritually. The key is not how many, but what kind of Christians are we developing. It's quality, not quantity. And our calling is not a ministry of addition, but, as we are going to see, **Jesus has called us to a ministry of multiplication....**I can tell you categorically, after over 55 years of ministry: **discipleship is a ministry with no regrets.** I have never wasted 5 minutes in discipling men and women. And I cannot say that about almost anything else in my ministry. It's a ministry that will give you complete fulfillment when you die."

Howard & William Hendricks



“Every time you build into the life of another person, you launch a process that ideally will never end.”



Insight from Stephen Covey

“To begin with the end in mind is to begin today with the image, picture, or paradigm of the end of your life as your frame of reference or the criterion by which everything else is examined...it means to start with a clear understanding of your destination. It means to know where you’re going so that you better understand where you are now and so that the steps you take are always in the right direction.... ‘Begin with the end in mind’ is based on the principle that *all things are created twice*. There’s a mental or first creation, and a physical or second creation to all things.”

How do Covey’s insights help us understand biblical discipleship?



A Profile of a Disciplined Person

USE YOUR IMAGINATION

What Are We Trying To Produce?



- The lightbulb is a symbol of an idea and reminds us that one characteristic of a well-formed vision is *perspicuity* – the freedom from being obscure or ambiguous; **clear** in statement or expression.
- Vision is the ability to perceive something not actually visible, as through mental acuteness or keen foresight. **Force or power of the imagination.**

What is Vision?

- “Vision for ministry is a clear **mental image** of a preferable **future** imparted by God to His chosen servants and is based upon an accurate understanding of God, self and circumstances” (George Barna).
- Vision is “**foresight** with **insight** based on **hindsight**” (George Barna).
- Vision is “divine instruction” (Charles Bridges).



What is Vision?



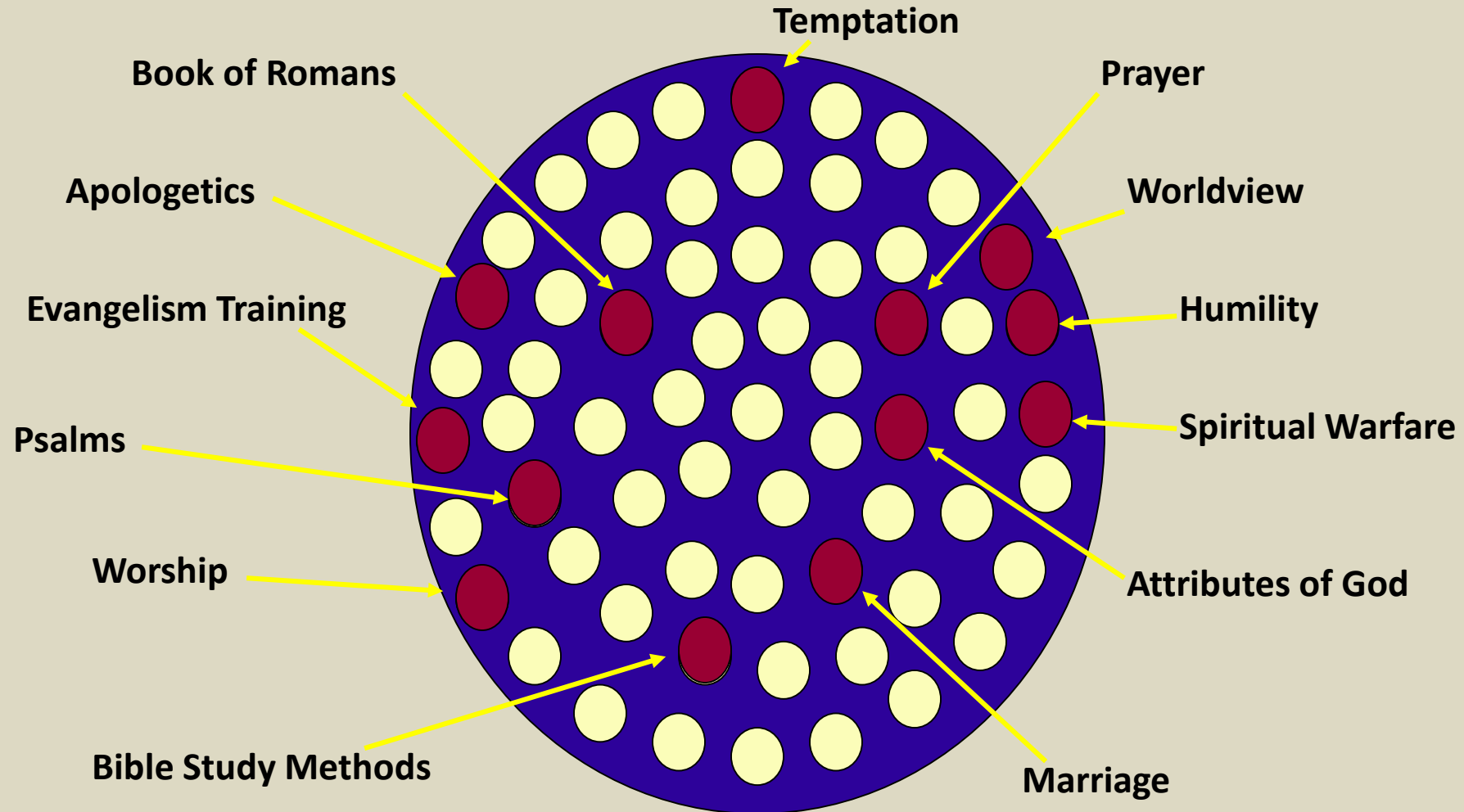
Peter Drucker
1909-2005

Vision is “defining reality.”

Building Mature Disciples of Jesus

- “And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man **complete (mature)** in Christ” (Col. 1:28).
- The Lord gives to His church spiritual gifts: “For the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a **mature** man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ” (Eph. 4:12-13).
- “And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be **perfect (mature)** and complete, lacking in nothing” (James 1:4).

The Shaping of a Life



Why Develop a Profile of a Disciplined Person?



A Profile of a mature, disciplined believer will give you a blueprint of what God wants him to know (**knowledge**), to be (**character**), and to be able to do (**skills**).

Imagine a Believer...

1. Who longs to glorify God and enjoy him forever
2. Who has an intense passion to know and serve God
3. Who meets with God every morning for personal worship
4. Who enjoys regular communion with God in prayer
5. Who hears, reads, studies, memorizes, & meditates on God's Word
6. Who worships God in spirit and in truth
7. Who lives to discover and fulfill God's eternal purpose
8. Who discovers and uses his spiritual gifts for building Christ's church

Imagine a Believer...

9. **Who is passionate about sharing the gospel with unbelievers**
10. Who lives in the power of the Holy Spirit
11. Who accepts God's blueprint for marriage
12. Who seeks spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical oneness in marriage
13. Who is faithful to his spouse
14. Whose eyes and ears are guarded with all diligence
15. Who is not living with secret sins
16. Who loves and serves his family

Imagine a Believer...

17. Who loves his children and offers them strong, godly leadership
18. Whose spouse and children honor and respect him
19. Who is not consumed by the love of money
20. Who does his work with all diligence, honesty, and integrity
21. Who is ethical in all of his business decisions
22. Who is not materialistic
23. Who is respected and admired in the his home, church, community, and marketplace
24. Who understands biblical stewardship: that everything, all money, resources, time, and talents belong to God

Imagine a Believer...

25. Who lives before God as a faithful steward
26. Who liberally gives to the work of the Lord
27. Who believes the perfect model to follow is Jesus Christ
28. Who is vulnerable and does not mask, or hide, his feelings
29. Who can share failures as well as successes
30. Who believes power is perfected through weakness
31. Who is approachable and accepting
32. Who has learned the importance of totally forgiving others
33. Who has been broken before God and is humble

Imagine a Believer...

- 34. Who loves God and loves others
- 35. Who is willing to serve others
- 36. Who sees the world through the eyes of God (biblical worldview)
- 37. Who suffers with grace and patience
- 38. Who exhibits the fruit of the Spirit
- 39. Who hungers and thirsts for righteousness
- 40. Who confesses all failures and looks to Christ for forgiveness



Evangelism in the Early Church

“The chief agents in the expansion of Christianity appear not to have been those who made it a profession or a major part of their occupation, but men and women who earned their livelihood in some purely secular manner and spoke of their faith to those whom they met in this natural fashion....It seems probable that many must incidentally have talked of their religion to those whom they met in the round of their daily occupations.”

- Kenneth Scott Latourette, late Sterling Professor in Missions and Oriental History, Yale University



The Motive for Evangelism

“There can be little doubt that the main motive for evangelism was a theological one. These men did not spread their message because it was advisable for them to do so, nor because it was the socially responsible thing to do. They did not do it primarily for humanitarian or agathistic utilitarian reasons. **They did it because of the overwhelming experience of the love of God which they had received through Jesus Christ.**”

- Michael Green, *Evangelism in the Early Church*

John Wesley

“Give me a hundred men who fear nothing but God, and who hate nothing but sin, and who know nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified, and I will shake the world.”

