



# CREATING A CULTURE of DISCIPLESHIP AND CARE

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## I. Fulfilling the Great Commission

### A. "Making converts" vs. "making disciples"

1. Get them saved and get them in church.
2. Teach them "to observe all that I have commanded."
  - a. IOW – "Go and make disciples, NOT just converts."
  - b. Three characteristics of biblical discipleship
    - It is organic.
    - It happens in teaching and admonishment.
    - It grows and develops in true biblical community.

### B. Traditional ways to make disciples

1. Exposit Scripture
2. Bring out application
3. Small group

### C. The problem with traditional methods

1. Sermons build a strong foundation for everyone.
2. Sermons hit home for some.
3. Sermons aren't touching a current struggle for many (Ephesians 1).
4. Small groups designed to be another teaching tool.

## II. Three main ways to create a culture of discipleship

- A. Engage in one-on-one counseling (pastors, ministry leaders, certified biblical counselors).
- B. Teach others to do the same (church body and staff).
- C. Have a systematic teaching on common issues (biblical counseling trainers, eventually counseling pastor and biblical counselors).

## III. Engage in One-on-One Counseling

### A. Pastor, Ministry Leaders, Biblical Counselors

1. Public ministry of the Word and private ministry of the Word.
  - a. **2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Peter 5:2; Proverbs 27:23**
  - b. Applying God's Word to personal struggles of people in your church (biblical counseling, pastoral ministry).

- c. Pastors may need resources, but they should continue learning how to minister to their flock and not refer out.

## 2. GOALS from **Colossians 1:28-29**

- a. Proclaim Christ
- b. Warn everyone
- c. Teach everyone
- d. Present everyone (e.g. every individual person) mature in Christ

## B. People are individuals.

1. Proclaiming Christ is bedrock, but warning and teaching usually requires being tailored to the individual.
2. Edmund Linn, *Preaching as Counseling* ...

*"There is a close relationship between preaching and personal counseling. Each contributes to the other. A pastor who practices personal counseling with intelligence and insight discovers that his sermons are affected in both content and form. His hours spent in personal counseling gives him some of the most essential elements of his sermons. It is likewise true that when a preacher speaks to the real condition of his people he soon discovers that he is being sought more and more by individuals who need to discuss their private personal problems."*

3. The goal is the same for PUBLIC and PRIVATE preaching: spiritual growth and Christlikeness.
  - a. Public preaching and teaching
    - i. Sunday worship service
    - ii. Small group / Sunday School
    - iii. Conferences, retreats, etc.
  - b. Private ministry of the Word
    - i. One-on-one discipleship
    - ii. Men's and women's discipleship groups
    - iii. Biblical counseling, etc.

## C. Examples from Church history

1. The Apostle Paul (Acts 20:20-21)
2. John Calvin (Calvin's Commentaries, Vol. XIX, p. 244)
3. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones (*Preaching & Preachers*, p. 38)
4. Richard Baxter (*The Reformed Pastor*, p. 196)

## D. Preaching, Teaching, and Counseling

1. They all work together and are both necessary, but not identical.

2. Preaching and teaching will anticipate questions you gain from your counseling experience.
  - a. EXAMPLE: Paul in Romans 9:14, 19, 30, 32
  - b. Application is always general when preaching and teaching, but will become more specific as you counsel.

#### IV. Teach others to engage in soul care (all church members).

1. It's not just the pastor and church leaders' responsibility.
  - a. Takes up all your time and energy.
  - b. The Bible is clear – **Ephesians 4:11-16**.
2. How should it be done?
  - a. **Identify** (SS teachers, small group leaders, pastors, ministers (youth children, etc.)
  - b. **Teach**
    - i. Full meaning of **Matthew 28:19-20**.
    - ii. Practicing that every member is involved in active discipleship and care for one another.
    - iii. Goal: **Colossians 1:28**
    - iv. What the “one anothers” are all about (community as a local church).
  - c. **Train and equip**
    - i. Foundations of the faith
      - New believers, seasoned believers
      - Topics: Justification, progressive sanctification, suffering, etc.
      - Everyone understanding spiritual growth is deliberate and intentional (**2 Peter 3:18**)
    - ii. Biblical counseling –Soul care
      - Encourage Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC) certification
      - Counseling ministry development
        - > *Loving Messy People* (Scott Mehl)
        - > *How People Change* (Paul Tripp)
        - > *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands* (T. Lane, Paul Tripp)
        - > *Gospel Treason* (Brad Bigney)
      - On going training for leaders in concept of Soul care

## V. Systematic Teaching on Common Issues

1. Variety of topics (for evangelism and discipleship)
  - a. How to lead family devotions (first line of discipleship)
  - b. Marriage seminar or class
  - c. Child training seminar or class
  - d. Social issues: sexual sin, internet dangers, creationism, etc.
2. Common needs seen in counseling.
3. Variety of delivery modes
  - a. Quarterly Saturday Seminar
  - b. Special 8-to-16-week classes on a specific topic (dealing with disobedient teenagers, unforgiveness, strengthening marriages, etc.)
  - c. Mini-conference for church community or region

## VI. Bottom Line

1. Most believers get saved, go to church, serve somewhere.
2. What is often missing is deliberate, practical discipleship.
3. Pastors need to do it and, just as important, teach and equip others to do it (see diagram next page).
4. Building a culture of discipleship and care is a large part of fulfilling the Great Commission (both evangelistically and one another care).

