

CHBC Core Seminars
Lesson 5 – Why Disciple in the Local Church?
January 05, 2003

Theme: The importance of discipling in the local church setting is discussed and commended.

Instructional Objective: Lord willing, students will recognize and affirm the importance of discipling relationships being established primarily within the context of the local church. Moreover, students will receive suggestions on how to effectively use the ministry of the local church to enhance and expand their ministry of one-on-one spiritual encouragement.

Introduction:

Over the last four weeks we have thought a great deal about the topic of discipleship. We have asked the question “What is discipling?” and have concluded that it is the deliberately, intentionally relating to another Christian with the aim of doing them good spiritually. We have asked “Why engage in discipling?” and concluded that it is critical for other’s good, for our joy and for God’s glory. We have considered various “barriers and excuses for discipling” and have hopefully dispensed with them based on sound reasoning and the teaching of Scripture. Finally, we have considered the object and goal of our discipling relationships and have concluded that the grand object of this wonderful work is to encourage our friend to grow in holiness, as evidenced by greater obedience to God’s revealed will.

Well, there is one more question we must answer before we turn to the specific and practical matters that will occupy the remainder of this class. Our final broad question is simply this “What venue is best for establishing discipling relationships?” And we will assert today based on practical reasoning, but most importantly based on the pattern of Scripture, that the primary venue for our discipling relationships should be the local church wherever we find ourselves as members.

- I. Because the church is called to be pure.
 - a. Titus 2:14 – Jesus came to purify a people for himself.
 - b. We should want to encourage purity and maturity in our local church
 - c. Discipling in the local church helps to make the church pure.
- II. Because of your weaknesses and lack of gifts.
 - a.
- III. Because it provides better and greater accountability.
 - a. The church exists in part for the sake of accountability
 - b. A group of people can know a person better than just you alone.
- IV. Because you have a limited amount of time.
 - a. The ministry of the church expands your discipling ministry
 - i. Sunday morning sermons
 - ii. Core curriculum classes

iii. Small group Bible studies

- V. Because the church is more glorified when the body grows together.
- VI. Because church membership is important.
 - a. Encouraging people to seek our discipling in a church
 - b.
- VII. Because this is part of what you were gifted to do.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 ... Gifts are given to build up the church
 - b. 1 Corinthians 14:12b ... Try to excel in gifts that build up the church
 - c. Our gifts are to encourage the church, first and foremost
- VIII. Because discipling is how we show love for the local body.
 - a. John 15:12-15 ... Jesus loved us by laying down his life and opening up the Father's truth to us.
 - b. Who's spiritual good should we desire first...our covenant family or others?
 - c. We are called to love best those placed nearest to us, some of whom may be hardest to love ... 1 John 4:19-21
- IX. Because this is the pattern given us in the New Testament.
 - a. Hebrews and gathering together for encouragement one for the other.
 - b.
- X. Because God is greatly glorified by church-based discipling
 - a. Purity glorifies God
 - b. Church distinct from the world glorifies God

Conclusion:

- a. other discipling venues are not wrong, but are clearly not optimal.
- b. if you love the church, this should be your primary focus for discipling.
- c. church exists to help you disciple, you should value it as such.