

A Reproducible Disciple-Making Process

Series: Culture Eats Strategy

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Previously we have looked at the disciple-making culture from a:

A Biblical Foundation
An Intentional Leadership
A Relational Environment

I always start from the foundation that Jesus is Lord. Therefore, we must obey Him in all we do in His name. The church acts in the name of Christ, by His authority, and at His command. He owns us. He is Head over us. He is our Savior. We must do His will. One thing is abundantly clear and that is that Jesus wants us to reproduce. Here are some ways I know this to be true:

Jesus Modeled Reproduction

Luke 5:1-11, Emphasis on 5:10, “Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men.” On another occasion Jesus said, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Mark 1:17)

The entire purpose of His miracles was reproduction. John 20:30-31, “Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing you may have life in His name.”

The purpose of Jesus’ death was to reproduce. He said, “Truly, truly, I say to you unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies it bears much fruit.”

Jesus Taught Reproduction

Matt.28:18-20, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

John 15:16, “You did not choose Me, but I choose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear much fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in my name, He may give to you.”

Matt.5:13-16, "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how * can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot * be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light shine

before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

The Apostles Modeled and Taught Reproduction

The entire book of Acts is written to show the reproducible work of the apostles within the lives of thousands of people.

Acts 1:8-Be witnesses to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, end of the earth

Acts 2-3000 baptized on one day; Lord added to their number, being saved

Acts 5:14, “And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women were constantly add to their number.”

Acts 8:4, “Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.”

Acts 8-Samaria received the word; Ethiopian received the word.

Acts 9-Saul was baptized

Acts 10-11, Cornelius and family were baptized

Acts 12:24, “But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied.”

Acts 13 Paul and Barnabas on first missionary journey, many churches planted

Acts 15 Paul and Silas; Barnabas and Mark, second missionary journey,

Acts 16 Macedonian Call into Europe

Acts 16 Philippian Jailer and family and on and on it goes....

2 Cor.4:1-15-Listen to this beautiful explanation of Reproducible Discipleship
1 Therefore *, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, 2 but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth **commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.** 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 **For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord,** and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. 7 **But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,** so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; 8 we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 **always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.** 11 For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death works in us, but life in you. 13 But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "**I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE,**" **we also believe, therefore we also speak,** 14 knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you. 15 For all

things are for your sakes, so that **the grace which is spreading to more and more people** may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.

SO what must we do to become a reproducible disciple and a reproducible church? We have already outlined the first three necessities for doing this:

- Understand and comply with the Biblical Foundation of Disciple-Making
- Begin with all our leaders intentionally living out disciple-making
- Build a relational environment that is conducive to growth.
- But, if we are going to learn to reproduce we must train for reproduction.

Eph.4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for **the equipping of the saints for the work of service**, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 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 fullness of Christ.

But, remember Culture Eats Strategy-and it will do so in this area as well. We have become so accustomed to only certain people in the church making disciples and so accustomed to classroom learning, mere transference of information, that we are going to have to develop a completely new culture that is centered around Every Christian A Disciple, and Every Opportunity A Training In Disciple-Making.

In the days ahead we will aggressively be building this kind of culture among us until the culture is so strong that it will support the plans and the strategies that will cause this church to grow spiritually and numerically, to the glory of God.