

**Intro:** Here we are halfway through our Discipleship series. The goal of this series is to hopefully give tools to the body on not only discipling others but learning to be a disciple. Today we are diving into the topic of discipleship in the Church setting vs. the workplace. This is important because we, as a leadership and the body, are not clergy, we are employees, self-employed, business owners, or just in the world more than we are in the church. So because of this fact we need to be conscious about our time at work and how we are leading people to the knowledge of Jesus through our lives.

## 1. Discipleship in the Church

- a. **The church (5 fold ministry)** is to EQUIP THE SAINTS to do the work of the ministry. Church is NOT where discipleship happens; it's through the saints to be in the world to make disciples of nations.

Ephesians 4:11-16 *"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the [e]difying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"*

- b. **THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY:** The goal of discipling within the context of the church is to equip the saints to do the work of the ministry. Which means, the "clergy" are not here to do the work of the ministry, it's for the people sitting in chairs, going to work, going through the stresses of life. We are the ones to do the work of the ministry. That's why this model of shared leadership is so important.
- c. **EDIFYING:** When we gather let us edify, through prophecy and pastoring and the apostolic and the testimony of evangelism and teaching. **1 Corinthians 14:3-5.** Edifying is building one another up in mind and spirit to encourage and teach one another. This why the writer of Hebrews encourages the church to not forsake the gathering of the brethren (church) so that we may be able to share these things. **Hebrews 10:24-25** So as we see the day approaching we need to be edifying one another in this context of church.
  - i. I am going to insert in here when we talk about "church" we are not only talking about sunday morning expression but also, and maybe more important, lifegroup. We also sometimes use that word as the collective of the body of Christ, but I am not talking about that today.
- d. **UNIFYING:** The other goal of this directive is to have unity in the spirit and then maturity in the faith to know Him more. So the context of church is to get edified

from these giftings to then go out and use them. To make disciples. To be unified in Spirit. Ephesians 5 then goes on to say to be imitators of Christ, to be disciples of Christ and “submitting to one another in the fear of God.” Ephesians 4:14-16, 5:21

- e. **TRUTH:** Another portion of this scripture I want to touch on is 4:15-16. To not be children tossed to and fro by the trickery of men. Which means, that we are to be rooted and grounded in Truth. In this line of thinking of being equipped, to me it means that we are grounded not only in who we are, but the truth and revelation of the WORD for our selves. Hebrews 5:12-14
  - i. The second piece of this is not as easy, TRUTH. If we are submitted in love to one another, edifying, in unity, we must learn to speak the truth. Sometimes this is hard truth, but I tell you this, that a lot of times if we don't hear the truth then how will we know we are walking wrongly?
- f. My encouragement in summary of being discipled in church is that this is a place of equipping. That's who we are! We gather, equip, and commission disciples of Jesus from Restoration Fellowship. So some practicals:
  - i. **Be consistent in that gathering of the saints.** You should be engaged to the level where if you miss something people should wonder where you are and miss you. This is sunday and lifegroup.
  - ii. **Pay attention to what is happening.** Be engaged in worship, in the word, and in serving. We get so much more out of life when we take ownership. Get involved! Not for the sake of the organization but for the sake of your walk and the body.
  - iii. **Receive freely and give freely.** Be bold in this safe place to walk out your giftings but also be gracious in receiving.

## 2. Discipleship in the Workplace

- a. Most of us spend more time at work than we do at any other thing in life. Why not make it count in this life? Ephesians 5:15-17 NLT: *“So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.”*
- b. There is no doubt that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand and our lives are meant to preach the good news of the gospel. To live a life that is like Jesus. He is full of Joy and peace, He is also holy and righteous.

- c. We want to be the people that everyone wants on their team because we are so good at our jobs. We are wise and efficient, doing everything as unto the glory of Jesus. Colossians 3:23
- d. We must be in a place of rest to disciple properly. We are called to walk in rest by taking on Jesus' burden, to carry something different.
  - i. **Matthew 11:28-30 NLT** ***"Come to me , all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light."***
  - ii. If we were to work from a place of rest, how much would people wonder about our lives? The common answers to the question of "How are you?" is I am tired and I am busy. This is talk of the world. I am guilty of it, but God has called us to sabbath so that we may work in full strength. Hebrews 4:1, 11-13,
- e. Are you a person of peace? Or are you like the world. Rest brings peace. Be a person of peace. In the midst of chaos be rooted and grounded in peace. The number one thing I have heard when I have been on business trips and people recognize the Spirit in me is "man how are you so peaceful?" and I would not use that word to describe my personality by any means. The people in my world talk about escape, downplay their marriage, they discuss work like a trap, they complain about everything. When you are people of LIGHT as Ephesians 5:8-14 talks about we will be a beacon. Its hard to go against the world, its hard to not get dragged into gossip and complaining, but when we choose something higher in the spirit, and when we choose the low road of humility, people see and they crave it.
- f. We disciple as parents. Are you peaceful? Are you restful? Do people know you love Jesus by your kids? What are people saying about your kids? I firmly believe that if people are moved by our kids that they are moved by the spirit that we are fostering within them. That looks like what we have talked about today. It looks like peace, it looks like truth. Don't wait for them to be in the workplace to disciple them.
- g. Some practicals on discipleing in work:
  - i. Ask about peoples spiritual walk.
  - ii. Use the scripture in daily talk.
  - iii. Invite coworkers into your sphere. Church is a place for the unbeliever.
  - iv. Be counter-cultural in your walk and your talk. Don't succumb to the negative.
  - v. Work with integrity. Be the best at what you do.
  - vi. Go out of your way to speak life

vii. Be bold in prayer. Ask!

**Conclusion:**

*Matthew 5:13-16 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

We are the salt of the earth which not only flavors but also preserves. We are light in darkness.

**Every single area of life should be governed by what Jesus demonstrated and said through his word. The 7 Pillars (Family, Faith, Education, Government, business, Communication, and Art)** so in these spheres, be equipped by the church to have your own walk, not being swayed, and then go into the world and bring life.

**LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS:**

1. How does shifting your view of Sunday mornings and LifeGroup from a place of "receiving a service" to a "ministry training ground" change how you engage while you are here?
2. Honestly evaluate your last work week: Did your coworkers see a person of peace, or did they see someone running on the same frantic, stressful energy as the rest of the culture? What needs to shift so you can work from a place of Kingdom rest?
3. Look at the practical steps listed for the workplace (e.g., using scripture in daily talk, working with unmatched integrity, avoiding negative gossip, being bold in prayer). Which one of these feels the most challenging to implement in your current job or daily sphere, and what is one small, concrete step you can take this week to live it out?