

# Doing Discipleship Together

COME TOGETHER #5 - Pastor Gary Combs - July 9, 2023 - 2 Timothy 2:1-2

**INTRO:** Good Morning! Today we are concluding our series entitled “Come Together.” This morning we will be looking at how we are to be a church that is “Doing Discipleship Together. How to be a disciple-making church. Last week, we learned that Christ commissioned the Church to go and make disciples. We call it the Great Commission. But how? That’s what we’re talking about today.

**Need:** Many Christians don’t know how to be a disciple and they certainly don’t know how to make one! Many have the wrong impression that discipleship is for super Christians only, as if there were such a thing. But discipleship should be a condition of being a Christian. The fact that the Church has neglected this, that believers have neglected it, thinking they could receive Jesus as Savior without following and obeying Him as Lord, has resulted in a great many believers not experiencing the profound peace and abundant life that Christ came to give.

**Trans:** What can we do? How can we experience the peace and abundant life Christ promises?

**BODY:** In the apostle Paul’s second letter to Timothy, he instructed him as the pastor of the church at Ephesus to lead them to be a disciple-making church. Christ commands us to be a disciple-making church. How we can be a disciple making church? The text gives **four instructions** on how to be a disciple making church.

**Today’s text:** 2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

## HOW TO BE A DISCIPLE-MAKING CHURCH:

### 1. Be relational.

**EXP:** (1) Circle “my child.” Paul wrote to Timothy as a father to his son in the Lord.

“**Then**” - therefore, then, consequently. As a result of ch.1, where Paul reminded Timothy of his “sincere faith” passed on to him from his mother and grandmother, and his call through the “laying on of hands.”

“**My Child**” (τέκνον, *teknon*) - child, son, disciple. Paul referred to Timothy as his child. For them, discipleship was a father-son relationship. “To Timothy, my dearly beloved son” (2 Tim. 1:2 KJV).

“**Strengthened**” (ἐνδυναμοῦ, *enduvamou* - PPM) - be strong, strengthened, bold. Not be strong in yourself, but to mine such strength from the “quarry” of God’s grace (Lea & Griffin, NAC, 201).

“**Grace**” (χάριτι, *chariti*) - grace, unmerited favor. This “grace” is experience by being “in” Christ.

**ARG:** Discipleship begins by having a relationship with Jesus, being “in” Him and “with Him.”

Mark 3:14 (ESV) And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him...

“Amazing as it may seem, all Jesus did to teach these men His way was to draw them close to Himself. He was His own school and curriculum.” - Robert Coleman, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*

**ILL:** Peter and John before the Jewish Council for preaching in Jesus’ name after healing a cripple.

Acts 4:13 (ESV) Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

**APP:** True disciples recognize both the vertical and the horizontal relationships to which we are called:

- 1) Vertical: What is your relationship to Jesus today? First, Jesus is your primary Discipler and Teacher.
- 2) Horizontal: We need three key “human” relationships: a Paul, a spiritual father pouring into us, a Barnabas, a spiritual brother encouraging us, and a Timothy, a spiritual son that we are pouring our life into (Or a Pauline/Barbara/Tammy).

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## 2. Be **discipled**.

**EXP:** (2a) Notice the word “heard.” Timothy willingly heard and followed Paul as Paul followed Jesus.

“**What**” - “the things” (KJV). The gospel, doctrines, teachings of which Paul preached and taught.

“**Heard**” (ἤκουσας, *ekousas* - AAI) - to hear, comprehend, understand. Timothy had already heard.

“**In the presence of**” (διὰ, *dia*) Literally, “through, via, among, or from.” If translated “through many witnesses,” it suggests that Paul meant many, such as Barnabas, his mother and grandmother and others were involved in discipling Timothy (Lea & Griffin, NAC, 202).

“**Many witnesses**” (μαρτύρων, *martupone*) - Perhaps those present at Timothy’s baptism and/or ordination, or those who bore witness to him, or to the widespread knowledge of Paul’s teachings.

**ARG:** The **cost of discipleship: Self denial** (Jesus speaking)

Luke 9:23 (ESV) And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”

The **nature of discipleship: Learning and imitation** (Jesus and Paul)

Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV) <sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and **learn from me**, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NKJV) **Imitate** me, just as I also **imitate** Christ.

**ILL:** Like Timothy, I had “many witnesses” who discipled me. Tim had his mother and grandmother, Eunice and Lois (2 Tim. 1:5), and I had my mother and grandmother, who deposited their sincere faith and love of the Word in me. Their witness was more “organic” learning from their example. In college, I was discipled in a more formal sense by a CCC staffer named Tom Lewellen, who took me through a process over 2 years.

**APP:** Think of all the people that have tried to invest in you spiritually. Have you been willing to “hear” them? To be teachable? Are you willing to be discipled? To allow a “Paul” to speak into your life?

## 3. Be **disciplemakers**.

**EXP:** (2b) Circle “entrust.” Paul challenged Timothy to entrust others with what he had “entrusted” to him.

“**Entrust**” (παράθου, *parathou* - AMI) - to entrust, to commit, to make a deposit, to place food or set the table. Paul was saying, “What I have deposited in you Timothy, you must now deposit in others!”

“**Faithful**” (πιστοῖς, *pistois*) - faithful, trustworthy, believing. Those who would faithfully protect and pass on the gospel as it was given to them. Are they F.A.T.?

**ARG:** **Jesus gave both the command and the example for making disciples.**

Matthew 28:19 (ESV) Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations...

John 13:15 (ESV) For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

**Paul told Timothy to follow his same pattern for discipleship**

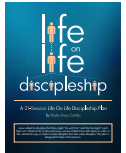
2 Timothy 1:13-14 (ESV) Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

**ILL:** I became addicted to being a disciple-maker while in college. After Tom started discipling me, he challenged me to disciple others. Three men (Ken, Mark, Jamie) that I discipled in college are in ministry today. Then, when we planted this church 31 years ago, I used a lot of those same materials to disciple new believers. But after a while I realized I wasn’t teaching them how to disciple others. Our staff

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challenged me to write a workbook to help every believer become a disciple-maker. We took the next year working on it together, finally releasing it to the church in 2016. The workbook is called *Life On Life Discipleship*. It has 21 lessons divided into 4 sections: Belong, Behave, Believe, and Become.



**APP:** Are you obeying Christ's command to make disciples? Some of you may have already been a Christian for while and you've already been disciplined, but are you a "disciple-maker?" Have you been taught how to make disciples? Others are here, and you've never been disciplined. You're a Christ-follower, but you're not growing in your faith. Will you commit to be disciplined and to make disciples?

## 4. Be strategic.

**EXP:** (2c) Finally, notice the strategy Paul gave Tim. Disciple those who are willing and able to teach others. Pour your life into those will to pay it forward. Our strategy is to "enable" them to make disciples.

"Will be able" (ἰκανοὶ ἔσονται, *hikavoi esontai* - future tense) - will be sufficient, able, worthy, or fit.

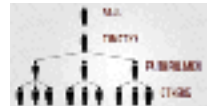
"Teach" (διδάσκειν, *didaxai* - AAInf.) - to teach, instruct, instill doctrine. Make disciples who will be enabled to make disciples too. Teach them how to teach what you were taught.

**ARG:** Jesus' strategy was discipleship.

Mark 3:14 (ESV) And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might **send them** out to preach.

"The time which Jesus invested in these few disciples was so much more by comparison to that given to others that it can only be regarded as a deliberate strategy. He actually spent more time with His disciples than with everybody else in the world put together." - Robert Coleman, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*

**ILL:** Paul followed Jesus' strategy of multiplication through discipleship. Jesus poured into 12 and primarily into 3 (Peter, James, and John). Paul taught Timothy to do the same. This is Christ's strategy for reaching the world: Discipleship!



**APP:** Our church Mission Statement is (which is based on the Great Commission and the Great Commandment)

"Our church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ who have a growing . . .

- Heart for God expressed in passionate worship and generous giving.
- Heart for Each Other expressed in authentic fellowship and devoted discipleship.
- Heart for Our World expressed in intentional evangelism and sacrificial service.

Are you a disciple of Jesus who has a Heart for God, for each other and for our world? Will you help us follow Christ's strategy for reaching the world with the gospel through strategically making disciples?

**CONCLUSION:** Being a disciple of Jesus and making disciples is the most fulfilling and abundant life you can imagine. Will you decide today to begin **doing discipleship together** with us? Will you join together with us in...

1. Being relational? Being right with God through a relationship with Jesus and being connected to God's people?
2. Being disciplined?
3. Being a disciple maker?
4. Being strategic? Following Christ's strategy of Life On Life Discipleship to reach the world?

Let's pray.