

The Body of Christ: Everyone Has a Part

Spiritual Growth & Discipling Relationships

Review:

What Is a Local Church? (The Bones)

Authorized to officially recognize & oversee Christ's Kingdom Citizens (Embassy)

Putting Flesh on the Bones: The Relationships of the Local Church

Members (Discipling relationships)

Deacons: (1) Sharpen Biblical Focus (2) Communicate

Elders (1) Sharpen Biblical Focus (2) Communicate

Matthew 28:18–20 The Great Commission “Discipleship”

Ephesians 4:7, 11–16 “The Body of Christ: Equipped for Service”

You Must be a Disciple: (Spiritual Growth)

You Must be Discipling: (Doing Spiritual Good to Others)

Today:

1. Spiritual Growth
2. Discipling Relationships
3. Gospel Community

Spiritual Growth

To be human is to be dependent:

Rebecca Manley Pippert

“The bottom line is, I can't share my faith because... I'm so inadequate!”

“Well, of course you're inadequate!” we answer: “We're all inadequate! All of us are completely dependent upon God! And isn't it freeing to know? There is no shame in depending on God!”...

“Satan wants us, instead of celebrating our human dependence upon God, to hate the fact that God is God and we are not. He wants us to despise our “smallness” and to view it as an embarrassment. But recognizing our inadequacy and dependence upon God isn't shameful—it is what sets us free! Being creatures isn't “rubbish,” as Satan wants us to believe. Being creatures who love, obey, and depend upon God without shame is glorious.”¹

¹ Manley Pippert, Rebecca. Stay Salt: The World Has Changed: Our Message Must Not (p. 42 & 45). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

Jeremiah 17:5–10

What does heart-level trust of God look like?

Discipling Relationshipsⁱ

1. What do we mean by “discipling”? (John 15:9–17)

How did Jesus love his disciples in ways that could be imitated?

Intentionally (John 15:16a)

Purposefully (John 15:16b)

Humbly (John 15:9, 15a)

Joyfully (John 15:11)

Normally (Cf. Heb. 3:13; Rom. 12:10; 1 Thess. 5:11)

2. A “culture of discipling”

3. What should I do in a discipling relationship? (Some RBC Examples)

- Meet weekly to discuss the prior Sunday’s sermon, a book from our library, or a book of the Bible.
- Attend a Sunday School class together and discuss specific application in one another’s lives.
- Invite unmarried members to sit in on family devotions.
- Accompany mothers with young children as they run errands.
- Help dads with yard work and ask them for counsel.
- Schedule “play dates” for kids and talk about the Sunday night talk.

4. How can I get into a discipling relationship?

- Take the personal initiative
- Talk to a church member you know & respect for suggestions and assistance.
- Contact one of the church Elders for help.

Cultivate Our Gospel Community

(Next Week: Intro to the Ministry of Deacons)

ⁱ Adapted from a handout published by 9Marks ministries.