

# Destroying Delusions of Discipleship

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## I. Introduction:

**Testimony of a Discip**ler: He was know for this famous statement, "Give me a handful of young dedicated men that will give me their lives, and I will conquer the world." He did just that. In 1903 he had 17 followers, 1918 he had 40,000 followers influencing/controlling 160 million people, and in less than 70 years (the course of a lifetime) he had impacted 1/3 of the planet, and affected us all. His name was Lenin; instrumental it the spreading of communism in the modern world as we know it today.

Here was a man that had a revelation regarding how to change his world, through effective discipling principles....without the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. Wow, the power of activating vision! There was another Man who had a same revelation, who said something similar. He started with just twelve and today there are over 2 billion followers, His name was Jesus. His method was simple and clear.

**Matthew 28: 18-20** "Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, **go and make disciples** (NOT DECISIONS) of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and this Son and the Holy Ghost. **Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.** (Change their lifestyle, habits, their purpose) And be sure of this **I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**"

It is evident that Jesus had a specific goal in mind. It was critical to the health and growth of the church. Without it Christianity wouldn't make it past one generation! These are the same disciples that experienced His thoughts about fishing in **Luke 5** and **John 21**. Nets breaking and nets not breaking. I vote that we build John 21 Churches!

Two questions we must ask ourselves as leaders, and hopefully be able to **answer AND implement** effectively: (Basic questions that we might laugh at but would be surprised as to responses.)

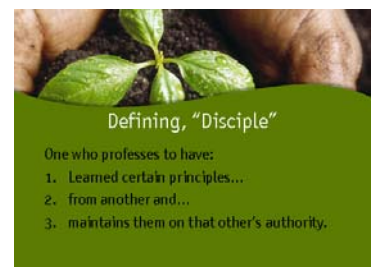
1. What is a disciple? - Can you identify specific components? Can all you leaders?
2. How do we make them? - Is there a process in place in which all components are offered?

## II. Defining a "Disciple"

In His final words to the disciples, Jesus shared what was most important to Him. He didn't say, "Go and make decisions," but commanded, "**Go and make disciples**" (Matt. 28:19). This mandate was not given to pastors and leaders only, but to every person who claimed to be a follower of Christ. He knew that the only way the world would be won, and the needs of the multitudes fulfilled, was for every Christian to do his or her part in discipling the harvest.

### A. Biblical Definition of Disciple

1. The word disciple in the New Testament is the rendering of the Greek word, *machetes*, which means "learner," and occurs frequently in the Bible. The meaning applies "**to one who professes to have(1) learned certain principles (2)from another and (3)maintains them on that other's authority.**"<sup>3</sup>



2. In all cases, *“it implies that the person not only accepts the views of the teacher, but that he is also, in practice, an adherent.”* The word has several applications. In the widest sense, it refers to those who accept the teachings of anyone, *“not only in belief, but in life.”*<sup>4</sup>

These definitions are widely accepted and agreed with principally, but marginally applied. The fruit?

3. That definition, in context of being followers of Christ, presents us with a pretty clear picture of what God is after in each of our lives and those that we lead and disciple. How do we define a disciple for our local church? There are 3 main areas of desired growth, biblically defined:

a. Biblical Foundations

These are the building blocks to our house. Need firm foundation in which to handle life’s weight, trials, tribulations, circumstances and opportunities that may come your way.

- i. Being born again (John 3:3; John 3:16);
- ii. Being baptized in water (Mark 6:16; Acts 2:38-39; Romans 6:3-5);
- iii. Being filled with the Holy Spirit (Mark 16:17; Acts 2:4; Acts 10:44-46);
- iv. Being planted in a local church (Matthew 16:18; 18:15-20; Hebrews 10:25).



b. Spiritual Disciplines

Spiritual disciplines are the quality of the materials and workmanship used in building the structure. These are the greatest costs of a construction project, and most challenging for the believer’s life. They are:

- i. Reading your Bible regularly (1Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Col. 2:7);
- ii. Having regular quality times of prayer (Jer. 29:12-14; Ps. 5:1-3);
- iii. Attending church services weekly (Acts 2:1; 2:42; 1 Cor. 5:4; Heb. 10:25);
- iv. Serving in an area of ministry (Matt. 20:28; Eph. 4:15-16; Rom. 12);
- v. Belonging to a small group-community (Acts 2:42-47; 20:20);
- vi. Being faithful to give tithes and offerings (Gen. 14:18-20; Matt. 23:23; Heb. 7:1-21);
- vii. Sharing your faith with spiritual seekers (Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Pet. 3:15);
- viii. Discipling others to grow in Christ (Gen. 22:17; Eph. 4:11-13; 2 Tim. 2:2).

c. Christian Character

This is the part that matters most! It is what we take with us when we go to heaven. It is what we are judged by, both here on earth and in all of eternity. It is what great churches are built on, and what crumbles churches.

The gifts are greatly diminished if you lack the character quality in order to administrate them.

Having Christian character means you could say:

- i. I apply God’s Word to every situation (Ps. 119; Josh. 1:7; 2 Tim. 3:15-17).
- ii. I find myself praying more than complaining (Dan. 6:10; Acts 1:14; Eph. 6:18).
- iii. I find it easy to serve others (Matt. 20:28; John 13:4-17; Phil. 2:4).

- iv. I enjoy helping those in need (Luke 10:25-37; Matt. 18:33).
- v. I am a good example to those around me (Rev. 12:11).
- vi. I am submissive and loyal to authority figures in my life (Matt. 8:8-9; Mark 10:42-45).
- vii. I have a great attitude toward life and its circumstances (Philippians 4:11-13).
- viii. I am not easily offended (Prov. 14:29; 19:11; Eph. 4:26).
- ix. I am part of the solution, not the problem (Prov. 11:13; 16:28; 26:20).
- x. I like to give more than receive (Is. 32:8; Acts 20:35; 2 Cor. 9:6-8).
- xi. My finances are in order (Prov. 6:6-11; 1 Cor. 4:2-3; 2 Cor. 9:10-11).
- xii. I abstain from damaging addictions (Gal. 5:16-23; 1 John 2:15-17).
- xiii. I am constantly working to change bad habits (Rom. 6:12-13; Col. 3:8).
- xiv. I am able to overcome compromising thoughts and temptations (Rom. 12:2).
- xv. My priorities are in order: God, family, career, ministry, health (Matt. 6:19-21).
- xvi. I perceive myself to be humble (Phil. 2:3-4; James 4:6-7).

- Are you satisfied with the number of people that have been added to your church?
- Are you satisfied with your discipleship fruit? Is the majority a crowd or a core?
- What is the level of spiritual health, growth and maturity amongst your members?
- How do we know each person in our church understands these goals?
- How do we know they are actually being established in their lives?

If you are like the most pastors, you have some great people, and a few that need some help. In any case, we all would agree that we would like more active, healthy, reproducing disciples.

### III. Current Condition of Discipling Fruit in the Church

In order to begin, we must be honest with ourselves and the condition of our people. We have to know where we are at in order to determine where we need to go. What is the fruit in our local church? Here are some national statistics (but does carry over internationally to some degree):

- 85% of Americans self-identify as Christians.
- Average Christian spends 7 minutes a day in prayer and 23 hours in front of the TV per week.
- 40% of Christians in America don't believe the bible to be 100% infallible.
- 29% of all Christians don't believe being active in a church is a top priority for their future.
- 40% of all Christians surveyed have not read the Bible in the past week.
- 35% of Christians said that to get by in life these days, sometimes you have to bend the rules.
- 50% of Christians said that there are moral truths which are unchanging, however, that truth is not relative to the circumstances.
- 95% of all Christians have never led anyone to Christ.
- 50% of all churches in American (165,000) will not add a new convert in the next year.
- 58% of Christians say they don't have a responsibility to tell others about their religious beliefs.



Let me propose that there are some shifts that must take place in our leadership strategy, and discipling philosophy in order to correct some of the challenges we are facing and assist us in reaching the goal the is before us... *"and make disciples."*

## IV. Discipleship Alignment

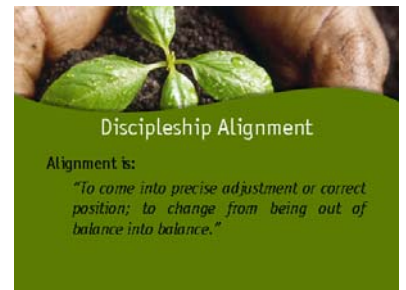
There are contributing factors to these statistics. Some are the blame of the people, but much is to also blame of the leaders. There are some 'discipleship delusion' that have been in practice for some time and need to be discussed and addressed. These delusions, need to be brought into alignment with God's word in order to produce lasting fruit:

Before we begin assessing these areas of alignment, let's define the term, "alignment."

### A. Defining, "Alignment."

*"To come into precise adjustment or correct position; to change from being out of balance into balance."*

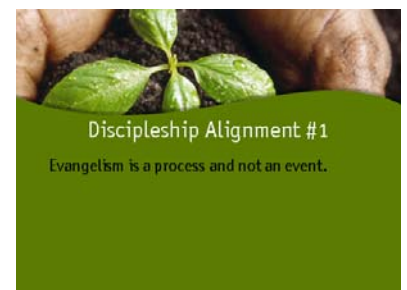
1. When something is out of alignment in an individual's life, it can affect their ability to move forward in the spiritual maturity and effectiveness for God.
2. So it is with a local church. If certain values and principles are not the fabric of their discipling and assimilation philosophy, their ability to produce active, healthy, reproducing members is greatly hindered.
3. Each leader/church represented here, will vary in each area in different degrees. Some may be doing very well in one area, yet lacking in another. Hopefully, many of these will encourage you as you are doing many things already right, while some might challenge you to reassess some areas of ministry.
4. Remember our goal is "Active, healthy, reproducing members of our local church." Each of these will affect our ability to attain this goal. Lets review 11 areas where we need alignment:



### B. Alignment #1: Evangelism is a process not an Event

Our view of evangelism has a bearing on our philosophy of discipleship and assimilation. Really, the discipleship process starts before a person gives their life to Christ.

1. The average person comes into contact with the gospel 7-10 times before ever making a decision to give their lives to Christ.
2. In addition, these people have varying degrees of knowledge of Christian belief and varying levels of receptivity based on past experience with Christians in their "pre-believer" era. Their treatment in this process determines their response or rejection.

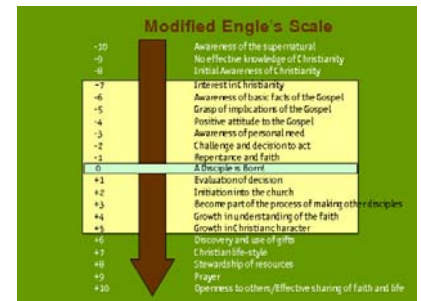


- For the most part evangelism is still defined as an event, or an encounter. Although these are still ways in which people are exposed to the gospel, process-oriented evangelism allows the individual to have multiple contacts & relationships with a Christian (hopefully positive) that ultimately dove-tails into a Christian influencing opportunity, which is a part of the 'pre-salvation-discipleship' process.

#86% of all who remain in a local church after their conversion, had prior relationship with someone in the church prior to their conversion.

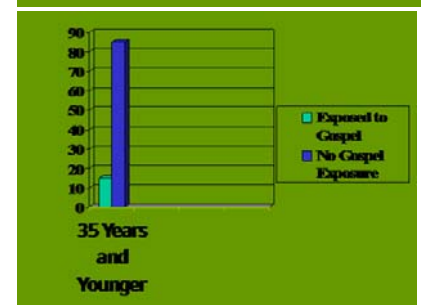
#### 4. Engle Scale

- We have done a adequate job in the middle spectrum of the scale, but have been Lacking at both ends.
- Harvest continues to be more towards the bottom end, requiring us to reconsider our approach to more of a process orientation.
- Our discipleship process seems to lose steam at the upper end, minimizing our ability to reproduce an abundance of active Healthy reproducing members. We need to be more strategic on how we move beyond decisions.
- I say all of that to say, our approach to evangelism, assimilation and discipleship must be viewed as a free-flowing process that begins long before conversion.



### C. Alignment #2: Balance/Shift from Prodigal Harvest to Pagan Harvest

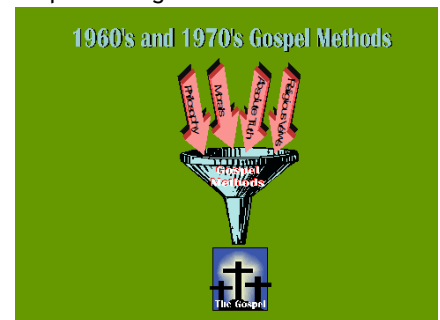
- We are living in a time where there are such exorbitant shifts taking place in every sector of our society (financial, educational, technical, ethnical, political, medicine, social, **AND religious.**)
- In just one generation we have seen a swing of those exposed/influenced by the gospel almost 60%!
  - ❑ 35 years of age and older: Approximately 85% have been exposed/influenced by Christian beliefs.
  - ❑ 35 years and younger: Approximately 15% have been exposed/influenced by Christian beliefs.
- We are living in a post-Christian society, post-modern era. That means those coming to Christ have much less of an understanding of basic Christian doctrine and principles. Prodigals are still coming, but many pagans.



4. This should affect the way we:
  - i. conduct our services (what is content, focus and conduct)
  - ii. the content of our materials
  - iii. the terminology we use
  - iv. the approach to our assimilation and discipleship
5. Principles and values remain the same, but we must consider our methodologies. We can't reach today's harvest with yesterday's methodologies. Culture shifts are frequent and extreme:
6. The church has always had to confront its culture and to exist in tension with the world. To ignore the culture is to risk irrelevance; to accept the culture uncritically is to risk syncretism and unfaithfulness.
7. The challenge will be to understand the new ways of thinking and come up with new strategic methodologies to penetrate the post-modern mindset while not compromising the Truth of the gospel.

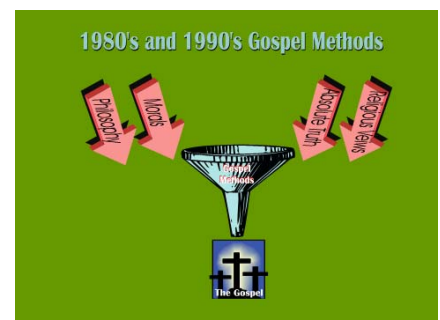
**Chart One: 1960's and 1970's Gospel/Discipling Methods in USA-**

Our methods matched the mindset and philosophies of the day. Although there was the beginning of a shift in philosophy via such people as Timothy Leary, Janis Joplin, Jim Morrison, Grateful Dead, Jimi Hendrix and the entire Freedom Revolution, the church was still able to reach and retain a large portion of society.



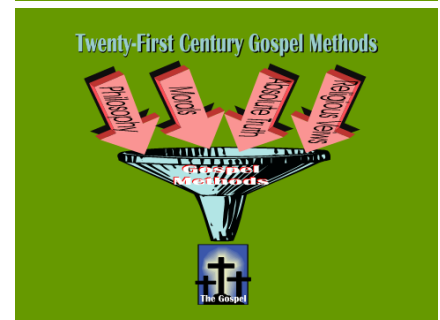
**Chart Two: 1980's and 1990's Gospel/Discipling Methods in USA-**

As society changed our methodologies lacked in meeting the mindset of society. There were attempts to reach the lost through methods that even minimized or hid the gospel message, in hopes we could relate to a people turned off to church. Furthermore we continued with methodologies of the 60's and 70's using a public, confrontational style only to find out it pushed people further from the gospel. **#330K churches, 85% plateaued/declining**



**Chart Three: Twenty First-Century Gospel/Discipling Methods-**

**#Wayne Gretsky**, I go to where the puck will be."  
 We must take the time and energy to understand the times and seasons, in which we live, and look for methods that, will be effective in reaching a "post modern mindset" with the good news.



**#Gene Edward Veith Jr.** states, "Whether Christianity will once again exert it's influence on the culture, or whether Christianity will become further marginalized in the twenty-first century, Christians must pay close attention to the signs of the times... Christians dare not be blind to change of this magnitude."



**Discipleship Alignment #3**

Balance- Shift from textbook driven to lifestyle modeled discipleship

## D. Alignment #3: Balance/Shift from textbook-driven to Life-style modeled discipleship

Our culture has been heavily influenced by the educational sector of our society. Our nations are filled with great universities and schools that have been responsible for shaping the minds and lives of great men and women, including men and women of God.

### 1. Textbook driven Society

- a. We all would agree that education plays a crucial role in the development process of any person in any particular field, including ministry. However, education, from a class room/textbook academic-oriented approach ONLY, doesn't have the ability to shape moral & spiritual fiber in of itself.

### 2. Textbook-driven Church

- a. The same truths apply to discipleship. Many churches have adapted an "indoctrination approach" whereas we corral them into a room teach them a series of classes as the sole strategy of discipleship,
- b. Some may set up a series of "meetings with a new convert never allowing them to see "how" to live a life as a disciple of Christ. Only to be disappointed when the 4-8 weeks come to a close.

### 3. Lifestyle-Modeled Approach

- a. Jesus left us the lifestyle model. There were three main components:
    - i. Education – Instruction
    - ii. Relationships – Mentoring (Talk more about in our next point)
    - iii. Experience - Equipping
  - b. He spent more time with all humanity combined. They ate with him, traveled with him, prayed with him, ministered with him, and suffered with him. He taught, he build relationships and allowed them to experience ministry. Some was taught, but much was caught. It was in this environment that he chose to teach as His way to build disciples.
  - c. He didn't just say pray this way, but begged them to come and prayer with him.
  - d. He didn't just say to witness, but he modeled by sharing the gospel with every person he came into contact.
  - e. He didn't just say to live a life of holiness and sacrifice, but modeled it by having no place to lay his head.
4. New Testament was filled with the philosophy of modeling as the primary means of discipleship.

*1 Cor. 11:1, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ."*

*Phil 3:17 "Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you."*

*1 Thess 1:6-8 "you became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia." (they imitated Paul, and then modeled to others).*

**2 Thess 3:9** “we did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order **to make ourselves a model for you to follow.**”

**Heb. 6:12** “We do not want you to become lazy, **but to imitate those** who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.”

## E. Alignment #4: Balance/Shift from institutional approach to relational discipleship approach

In order to model by life-style (#3), there must be relationship. With the busyness and complexity of our lives, it is a challenge for any person in the church to find the time to make new relationships.

Especially with newcomers to the church. They have problems, need help, and can be challenging.

### 1. Institutional Approach in Society

- a. Society has found a way to deal with the challenges. They create programs and departments. It takes care of the problem AND the guilt, while not affecting the lifestyle of those who are doing fine.

People are hungry	- Give them food stamps (USA)
People are poor	- Give them welfare (USA)
People need medical attention	- Give them Medi-cal (USA)

- b. All of, which are great, programs and needed, but they are missing a key element that actually deals with the problem and not just the symptom. It is called relationship.

### 2. Institutional Approach in the Church

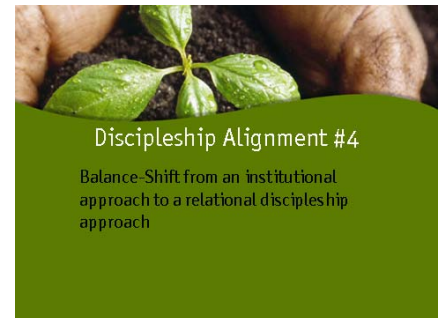
- a. If we are not careful, we can also follow suit, by developing programs and departments to address the needs without the core-fiber of relationship.

People are hungry	-We create a food ministry
People are poor	-We give them “Relief Funds”
People need discipling	-We create a great department and program.

### 3. Relational Approach to Discipleship

- a. Relationship is the core-fiber to a healthy local church. Not only for those who currently are members but also for those God desires to add to the church.

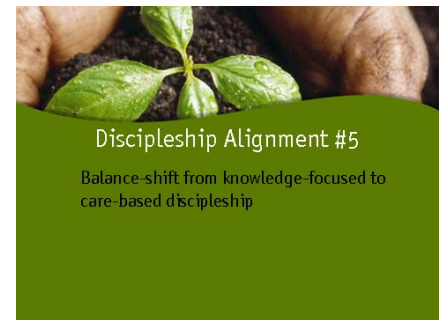
*Acts 2:44-47* “All the believers **were together** and had everything in common. **45** Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. **46 Every day they continued to meet together** in the temple courts. They broke **bread in their homes and ate together** with glad and sincere hearts, **47** praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”



- b. Again we see a New Testament pattern to discipleship modeled in the early church. They spent time with each other, pouring into each other, sacrificing for each other... the result was that people were added and stayed in the church... because of the koinonia!
- c. Two main reasons why people come: Relationship and Responsibility
- d. Two main reasons people leave: No relationship or responsibility.
- e. Must build relational net into every ministry of the church to insure that all those who come are "joined together" or "knit together." (Eph. 4:16)

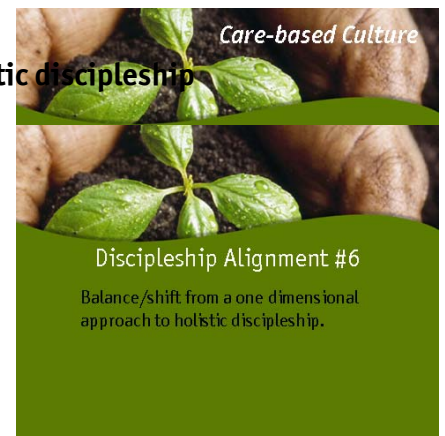
### F. Alignment #5: Balance/Shift from knowledge-focused to CARE-based discipleship

1. As you lead by example (#3) and establish relationship (#4), the foundation of the relationship must be "CARE-based". The foundation of the relationship must be genuine and truly concerned with the needs of your disciple, and not just one that exist to fulfill a discipling assignment or to meet your ministry agenda.
2. Jesus had genuine compassion for those he ministered to. 20 different times "compassion" is mentioned regarding Christ's approach to someone he was ministering to.
3. **Compassion** (Splanignizomahee) "To have your bowels yearning. To feel someone's burden as if it were your own."
4. 46 times Christ met the need of the person, BEFORE ever even mentioning something spiritual.
5. Care must precede knowledge – Demonstration AND Proclamation.



### G. Alignment #6: Balance/Shift from one-dimensional approach to holistic discipleship

1. The harvest today is truly unlovely and unjust. Some have been under the impression that new converts come in to the church, ready to tithe, have their marriage together, kids are obedient, finances in order, no addictions or sin issues, etc.
2. As we move our church forward to building active, healthy, reproducing, members, we must be ready and equipped to address all areas of their lives not just the spiritual. Principally agree, but have we practically applied?
3. We can no longer compartmentalize the problems in a person's life and select only the spiritual areas as our responsibility.



## H. Alignment #7: Balance/Shift from linear approach to Spirit-Led discipleship

- Western society has prided itself in its ability to build great companies, churches, organizations. We have great management and development strategies that require strategic and systematic planning. It is crucial in many things that we do, that each step be done in specific order such as:
  - ❑ Building a home -Concrete foundation before framing
  - ❑ Start a business - Business plan before business loan
  - ❑ Learning a skill or trade – apprentice before journeyman
  - ❑ Earning a degree -Study, lessons, exams before degree
  - ❑ Why not apply same principle to building a disciple...

### SO we develop materials and programs that take a linear approach...such as:

- ❑ Repentance (wk. 1) Prayer (wk. 4)
- ❑ Water Baptism (wk. 2) Word (wk. 5)
- ❑ Holy Sprit Baptism (wk. 3)

- I am all for a Hebrews 6 strategy and process but we must recognize there are other areas in a person's life that may need be more urgent to address than a particular systematic lesson. We want to make sure that people have a proper understanding an revelation of particular bible truths, but we must also recognize that each person's life and experiences greatly differ requiring us to have much more of a spirit-led discernment vs. a canned linear approach.
- People's needs often times are different that our perception of their needs.

Church Leadership	Church Attender

## I. Alignment #8: Balance/Shift from reactive pastoring to proactive discipling

The health of a church is greatly influenced by whether the people of that church are properly cared for. The larger a church becomes, the more intentional it must be in the way it shepherds their people. In addition, the more that we desire to see every member become an active, healthy, reproducing member the more proactive we must become in our discipleship and assimilation strategies.

### 1. Past Pastoral/Shepherd Model: Reactive

The pastor was to feed, lead, marry, bury, but rarely be proactively involved in the life of and individuals. To consistently speak into a person's life may have seem to be intrusive 'controlling.' The result often times is slower growth and maturity, or a lower water level of Christianity.

### 2. Jesus Model of Pastoral/Shepherd: Proactive

We see a completely different model in the life of Christ. He was very proactive and consistently spoke into the lives of those He led. He spent 3 ½ years of pouring into their lives. Challenging, exhorting, instructing, correcting, encouraging, equipping.



3. Proactive Care vs. Reactive Care in the Bible

The scriptures are clear regarding the necessity for quality pastoral care. There is a direct parallel between the health of the sheep and the level of pastoral care. Listed below is a comparison between those who are truly pastored and those who are left to their own way.

<b>Sheep / People with a True Shepherd</b>	<b>Scriptural Reference</b>	<b>Proactive Input</b>
Sheep receive provision.	Psalms 23:1-2	Finances, tithing, giving
Sheep receive direction.	Numbers 27:15-17; Psalms 80:1	Right decision, fulfilling destiny
Sheep are fruitful.	Jeremiah 23:3	Evang. Discipleship, Multiply
Sheep are kept.	Jeremiah 31:10	Safe, Godly, Serving
Sheep are strengthened.	Ezekiel 34:4,16	Word, Prayer, Encouragement
Sheep are fed.	Jeremiah 23:4; I Peter 5:2	Teaching, Equipping
Sheep receive healing.	Ezekiel 34:4,16	Holy Spirit, Emotional, Physical
Sheep receive binding up.	Ezekiel 34:4,16	
Sheep are found.	Ezekiel 34:15; John 10:16	
Sheep are safe.	Ezekiel 34:25	Covered, protected
Sheep receive rest.	Psalms 23:2; Ezekiel 34:15	
Sheep are comforted.	Psalms 23:4	Encouraged
Sheep are restored.	Psalms 23:3	Lifted up, and directed, grace
Sheep are visited.	Jeremiah 23:2	Relationship
Sheep receive increase.	Jeremiah 23:3	Faith

How are these items ever put into the lives of our people? Must direct and lead them proactively.

<b>Sheep / People without a True Shepherd</b>	<b>Scriptural Reference</b>	<b>Reactive Results</b>
Sheep are scattered.	Zechariah 13:7; Ezekiel 34:5-6	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffffcc; padding: 10px;"> <p>Happens when there is an absence of on-going accountability, relationship and instruction.</p> <p>People are like sheep, they need direction, need covering, need assistance.</p> <p>Some of these can happen even if they are being proactively cared for.</p> </div>
Sheep wander.	Ezekiel 34:6	
Sheep are lacking.	Jeremiah 23:4	
Sheep are devoured.	Ezekiel 34:5	
Sheep are weak.	Matthew 9:36	
Sheep have needs.	Psalms 23:1	
Sheep are diseased.	Ezekiel 34:4	
Sheep are broken.	Ezekiel 34:4	
Sheep are lost.	Ezekiel 34:4	
Sheep are prey for the enemy.	Ezekiel 34:8	
Sheep are fearful.	Jeremiah 23:4; Psalms 23:4	
Sheep are despondent.	Jeremiah 23:3	
Sheep are destroyed.	John 10:10	
Sheep are divided.	Acts 20:30	
Sheep are robbed.	John 10:1-2	



**J. Alignment #9: Shift from Judgment-driven leadership to Grace-driven discipleship**

1. Living in a society filled with people who have enormous needs, detestable sins, controversial lifestyles, and defiance towards God can challenge the grace level in the best of Christians. However, the harvest has always been unlovely and unclean. Jesus Himself reached out to the poor, the sick, the lost, the abused, the accused, and the accursed.

2. It is our challenge to turn our hearts toward the unlovely and unjust, just as Jesus did, and extend them the grace necessary to make the transition to the arms of their Heavenly Father. It is in this account with the prostitute that Jesus models the attribute of grace to His followers.

3. **John 8: 1-11** - Jesus models His Grace towards the prostitute.  
Two types of responses in this story towards this lost lady. Judgment (Pharisees) and Grace (Jesus).

a. Pharisaic Response to the Unlovely – 11 Attitudes

The Pharisees modeled how “not to” respond to the unlovely. Their heart attitude towards the prostitute shows us some alarming heart conditions that we must avoid.

- Attitude #1: They Elevate Themselves Above the Others. (John 8:3)
- Attitude #2: They are Outward Focused. (John 8:3)
- Attitude #3: They are Quick to Point out Other’s Weaknesses. (John 8:4)
- Attitude #4: They Focus on Punishment Not on Mercy. (John 8:5)
- Attitude #5: They Resist the Plan of Grace. (John 8:5)
- Attitude #6: They Elevate Approval over Acceptance. (John 8:5)
- Attitude #7: They View Circumstance through the Mind Only. (John 8:5)
- Attitude #8: They Have a Low Tolerance for Errors. (John 8:7)
- Attitude #9: They are Blind to Their Own Spiritual Condition. (John 8:7)
- Attitude #10: They are Unwilling to Admit their Own Sin. (John 8:9)
- Attitude #11: They Promote Exclusion not Inclusion. (John 8:9)

Do any of these attitudes fit you or someone you know?

b. Jesus Response to the Unlovely – 8 qualities

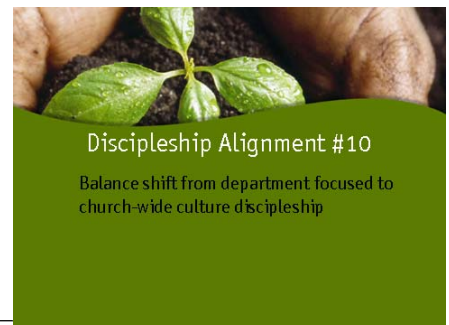
The scriptural account given in John 8 give us some powerful principles as to how we can apply grace to those God brings our way.

- Quality #1: Grace Assumes the Same Level as the Sinner (John 8:6)
- Quality #2: Grace is Slow to Speak (John 8:6)
- Quality #3: Grace ignores the critical opinion of others (John 8:7)
- Quality #4: Grace Stands up for the Truth (John 8:7)
- Quality #5: Grace Confronts Judgmentalism while Staying Humble (John 8:7)
- Quality #6: Grace Supports the Desperate during Hopeless Times (John 8:9)
- Quality #7: Grace Offers Encouragement and Hope (John 8:10)
- Quality #8: Grace Releases from Condemnation and Guilt (John 8:11)
- Quality #9: Grace Directs the Harvest towards Victorious Future (John 8:11)

Hopefully these attitudes fit you and your church!

**K. Alignment #10: Balance/Shift from department focused to church-wide culture discipleship**

1. Discipleship must become a part of your culture, an atmosphere, not a department only.
2. Every leader must have a house vision, not a room vision.
3. Every department must have a house vision, not a room vision.
4. The house vision must be to reach the lost and make disciples.
5. All must work together to reach this end.



## L. Alignment #11: Shift from church member goal to an active, healthy reproducing member as the reality.

1. Good moral Christians are not enough. We need reproducing disciples. The assimilation and discipleship process is not complete until each person is pouring into the lives of others.

#Jim Durkin "The world doesn't need more Christians; the world is loaded with Christians. What God wants and demands and needs, is disciples! That word means a whole hearted follower."

2. Jesus understood the power of multiplication and reproduction. He would invest His life into just 12 men, and they would in turn change the world.
3. For years, the term "multiplication" has raised more questions than answers. Many have associated the term to stale, modern day techniques that bypass relationships in order to obtain the goal of big numbers. However upon closer examination of the word in its Biblical context, this perception couldn't be further from the truth.
4. The word "multiply" was one of the original commands established by God to man, in the first of nine covenants, the Edenic Covenant. This same command then re-surfaces as God establishes the Abrahamic Covenant with man. In both scriptural references, as well as many others, the emphasis of multiplication was primarily targeted towards the family unit. The call was to establish healthy, strong, godly relationships and teach them to do likewise, resulting in a contagious, continual process that would spread the seed to all four corners of the globe! The reward would be a legacy and heritage for every person, and every generation. It is in the family where the greatest of relationships are established.

**Gen 1:27-28** "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**"

**Gen 22:17-18** "blessing I will bless you, **and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."**