

Basic Elements of Christian Discipleship Training

Notesheet with ANSWERS

By Dave Batty

A. Difference between birth and living

Physically – not too hard to bring a new child into the world

- at least – man's part

- a lot more pain for the woman but still – 9 months and it's done

But raising a child to become a mature adult – more than 9 months.

Spiritually – not too hard to bring someone to the point of salvation

- Evangelism – a separate workshop on this topic

But raising that new Christian to the point of spiritual maturity!

- that is quite a process

- not identical for all new Christians

- depends on special needs

Physically not enough to bring baby home and give them a sheet of instructions

- food

- clean clothes

- bathroom

- have a great day

- we are quite busy with our own lives and work

- have a great life!

Police would soon arrest us for negligence.

Spiritually

Do we give the new Christian a Bible and say, "God bless you? We are glad to have you in the family of God."

Question: Would God arrest us for negligence on behalf of the new Christian in our church?

B. Life Training

TC ministry – getting them to stop using drugs is not too hard. But to put on a whole new way of thinking – that’s quite a challenge.

Colossians 3:1-17

Ephesians 4:17-5:21

Phil. 2:5 – put on the attitude of Jesus

My part versus God’s part

Matthew 11:28-30 – come to Him

Romans 12 – whole chapter

(Danger here: Where do new Christians look to see how to put off the old man and put on the new man? They look to older Christians as examples – you and me.)

C. 3 Basic Areas of Discipleship Training

Need for balanced growth in all 3 areas.

1. Christ-like lifestyle

-love, kindness, patience, qualities that describe Christian life. 2 Peter 1:5-8

2. Ministry of Christian service

Ephesians 4:11-16 – especially vs. 12 & 16

-Appropriate ministry for new Christians

-Evangelism – have friendships

-everyone is gifted

Romans 12

1 Cor. 12 – esp. vs 18 – God has arranged the parts, just as he wanted them to be

Ephesians. 4

3. Personal problem solving

We sometimes fail to understand the complication of past sins

Don’t slap a “super-spiritual” bandage on problems that need real solutions.

D. People are in search of meaningful relationships.

- discipleship is a call to personal relationship
- not done with books and video tapes alone
- we often describe being a Christian as having a personal relationship with Jesus

E. Focus is on application

- The critical focus of discipleship training is personal application
- conclusion of Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 7:24-27
 - Wise man and the foolish man – in common – both heard the truth
 - difference between them – one applied it – the other did not.

Difference between **Education** and **Discipleship**

Education		Discipleship
Head	vs	heart
Knowledge	vs	Application
Understanding	vs	Commitment
Letter of the law	vs	Spirit of the law
Legalism	vs	Life & Light

Philippians 3:14 Paul - I press toward the mark of the high calling of God

Hebrews 12:1-2 Lay aside every weight and sin that so easily entangles and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us – let us FIX our eyes on Jesus.