

A Church for the 21st Century

Five times
– in five different New Testament books –
Jesus defines the Church’s mission for every generation.

We are to _____ disciples who _____ disciples.

What is a disciple?

A lifelong learner	An apprentice for life
A fully-committed follower	A student in the art of living
An intentional imitator	A full-time pursuer of the Real & Only Life

“What if the religion generally associated with Jesus neither expects nor trains its adherents to actually live in the way of Jesus?” (Brian McLaren)

What does it mean to be a church member?
What does it mean to be a member of the kingdom of God?

If we answer these questions differently,
ministry integrity requires that we close the gaps.

God has called us to go beyond _____ Christians,
to go from maintenance mode to missional mode,
and to surrender a focus on making _____ in order to make disciples.

A typical North American evaluation of church health revolves around five areas:

A _____
B _____
C _____
Scope of _____
_____ credibility

*It is disturbingly easy to “score high” on these measurements even while **not** sustaining significant conversation with God or enjoying redemptive relationships with other people.*

Our Ever-Changing Mission Field

How have potential churchgoers' expectations changed over the last 30 years?

- 10 My loyalty to this congregation is _____
General Motors has gradually eliminated the neighborhood church.
- 9 A “good sermon” is now 100% the responsibility of _____
Thank you, TV.
- 8 Shopping, museums, CNN, and church should all be _____
- 7 When I visit your church, I expect a certain amount of _____
That includes a nice parking space and great childcare.
The size of my seating space has gone from _____ to _____ inches.
- 6 In the end, I’m the one who knows what is best for _____
- 5 I want consistent _____ with regard to mission, vision and values.
- 4 I want to be part of a movement that _____ about the world.
- 3 Convince me that there’s something worth my _____
- 2 I’m searching for a great Third Place in my life...
(First Place _____ Second Place _____)
...where there are transforming _____ instead of programs.
- I** I yearn for an awe-inspiring experience with _____

The six “relational health” questions of the disciple making church:

- (1) Who is your _____ ?
At the end of the day, whose agenda are you following?
- (2) Who are _____ ?
What is the source of your security and significance?
- (3) Who is your _____ ?
Who is teaching you to live like Jesus?
- (4) Who is your _____ ?
To whom are you passing the spiritual treasures God is giving to you?
- (5) Where is your _____ ?
To what small group or team are you accountable as you seek God?
- (6) Where is your _____ ?
What place, beyond your comfort zone, stirs your heart for mission?

What is the personal and churchwide curriculum for discipleship?

The Six Marks of a Disciple

A Heart For Christ Alone
A Mind Transformed by the Word
Arms of Love
Knees for Prayer
A Voice to Speak the Good News
A Spirit of Servanthood and Stewardship

The primary aim of the disciple making congregation is to provide:

- lifelong growth in all six of these realms of spiritual formation
- as lived out in the six foundational discipling relationships
- for every man, woman and child
- of every generation, class and race

This Not Your Parents' Church

Fading Realities

Identified with buildings

Transcendent, "high"

Should come to our church

Send money

Static, few

The system

One central location

Take it or leave it

Credentialed clergy

Rugged individualism

Maintain life support

Declining

Preserve status quo

An anchor

Institutional Issues

Rigid

Why?

People will fail

Scarcity

Yesterday

THE CHURCH

ARCHITECTURE

UNCHURCHED

MISSION

IMAGES

TRUST

VENUES

CHOICES

PLAYERS

LEADER STYLE

DYING INSTITUTIONS

AFTER 40 YEARS

CHANGE

TRADITION

ORIENTATION

EXPECTATIONS

RESOURCES

BEST YEARS

Emerging Trends

Identified with people

Open, functional, "low"

We should go to them

Send people

Projected, many

The people

Multiple campuses

Multiple options

Lay leaders

Ministry teams

Euthanasia; prefer new life

Re-invented mission

Embrace transition

A rudder

People's needs

Flexible

Why not?

God's people can do it

Abundance

Still to come

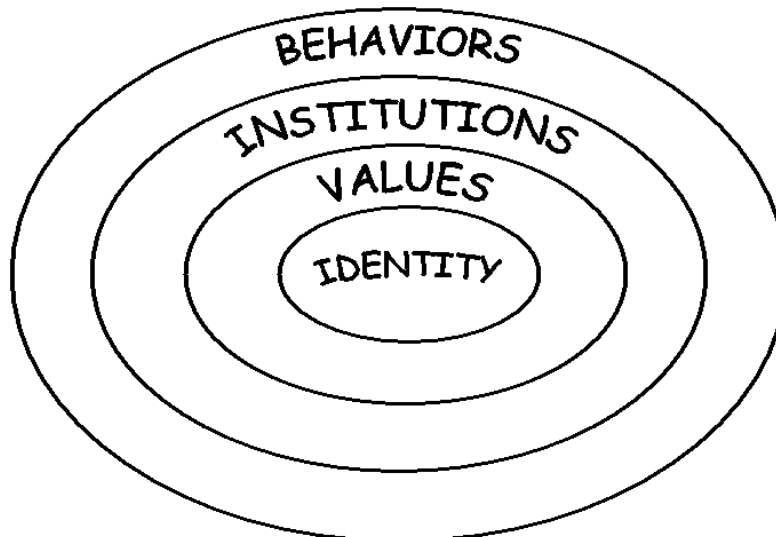
Living & Leading from the Inside Out

God’s Kingdom is Growing, Slowly but Surely

The most frequent command in Scripture is, “Don’t _____.”

The most frequent promise is, “I will be _____.”

It is not simple or easy to transform the culture of a family, a corporation, a nation, or a church. But it’s immensely helpful to know how human lives and communities are *structured*:



Since life is lived from the inside out, spiritual growth happens through the transformation of the mind (Romans 12:2), whereby we grasp our true identity as those who are “_____.”

The Bottom Line: For the church that yearns to make disciples, *being* comes before *doing*.

10 Leadership Commitments

- (1) **Prayer:** We go no faster than we can go _____
- (2) **Clarity of Vision:** Pastors and elders publicly decide to make discipleship (that is, the Great Commission) the singular focus of the congregation.
- (3) **Committed Stewards:** A core group – ideally the pastor and key spiritual partners or elders – becomes the stewards of the church’s vision for discipleship.
- (4) **Perseverance:** We recognize that true cultural change takes significant _____
- (5) **Priority of Relationships:** We acknowledge that spiritual transformation is better accomplished through intentional discipling relationships than a variety of come-and-go _____.
- (6) **Learning:** The session makes a commitment to ongoing learning, experimenting, and “field studies” of what is working here and there in disciple making.
- (7) **Courage to Confront:** We boldly choose to address our _____, knowing that some of them will undoubtedly be cherished traditions and cherished people.

(8) **Compelling Stories:** We utilize the power of testimonies and vision-casting sermon illustrations.

(9) **Continual Prioritizing:** We identify and seek to overcome our _____ mission – that is, the temptation to be successful without being faithful.

*Our greatest fear should not be of failure,
but of succeeding at things that don't really matter.*
(Francis Chan)

(10) **Step by Step:** We reach for low-hanging fruit by transitioning one or two existing ministry areas that are already open to change.

Of the 10 Leadership Commitments noted above,
identify which ones you think are:

A. Already happening in our congregation

B. Something we hope to do, but still need to fully live out

C. Not really on our radar

Which of these commitments would you identify as the
the one activity, if you were pursuing it right now,
that has the potential to make the greatest difference?

The Best Disciple Making Investment

A healthy church endorses **1 + 1 + 1-on-1**

1	God utilizes <i>large groups</i> (e.g., worship) for transformation
1	God works through <i>small groups</i> for transformation
1-on-1	God uses one-on-one <i>focused friendships</i> for transformation

For the past 50 years, small groups have carried the hopes and dreams of discipleship-minded leaders.

There is increasing consensus, however, that small groups (while effective in yielding greater fellowship and commitment to service) are not bringing about compelling new levels of spiritual formation.

Spiritual *apprenticeship*, however – also known as mentoring, one-2-one discipleship, and focused spiritual friendship – is a demonstrated means of carrying the Way of Jesus to the next generation.

The **bad news** is that our churches largely don't have the vision, the training, and the commitment to support such a movement.

The **good news** is that we already have everything we need to get started, including the universal experience of having been disciplined by others.

“There are no exceptions to this rule, for human beings are just the kind of creatures that have to learn and keep learning from others how to live.”
(Dallas Willard)

What is needed is a means of passing along the kind of “elbow knowledge” that Michael Polanyi describes in his classic studies of apprenticeship.

Question: *What have you learned about ministry from someone else that wasn't found in a book?*

A Key Text: 2 Timothy 2:2

“And what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well.”

How many spiritual generations are in view here? _____

- Discipleship is _____ Timothy is a real person.
- Discipleship is _____ “...from me...”
- Discipleship is _____ “entrust” = make a secure deposit
- Discipleship is _____ Paul made a long-term commitment.
- Discipleship is _____ The goal is becoming like Christ.
- Discipleship is _____ “...to faithful people who will be able to teach others...”

“Whatever comes through those gates, if we stay together, we can survive.”
Maximus, from the movie *Gladiator*

The Power of a Focused Spiritual Friendship

“If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, cleanses us from all sin.”
(1 John 1:7)

Sociologists Joseph Luft and Harry Ingham introduced the Johari Window.

- _____ Window Things that I know and you know about my life
- _____ Window Things that I know but have not shared with you
- _____ Window Things that you know about my life, but I don’t
- _____ Window Things known only to God about my life

The Making of a Mentoring Movement

There is no specific blueprint, recipe, or “one size fits all” program.

A church-based commitment to spiritual apprenticeship must be:

- Faithful to Scripture
- Sensitive to the vast array of human needs and opportunities
- Able to pass the *Tabletop Test*

Key _____ choose to live out and model one-2-one discipleship.

Such a relationship ideally should last at least _____.

It seems wise that these focused friendships should be same-gender.

A gap of _____ years has proven especially helpful in mentoring, but in discipleship we only need to be one _____ ahead of the person with whom we are journeying.

Older church members have much to teach younger ones...and our younger generations (especially when it comes to technology) have much to teach their elders!

Consider designating a lay person or staff person to provide coordination.

Learning to live like Jesus is not just information; it must involve _____.

I do and you watch.

I do and you help.

You do and I help.

You do and I watch.

You and I both repeat this pattern with someone else.

More than anything else, this commitment will require _____.