

Discipling

So far in Paul's letter to the Christians in Thessalonica, Christian life involves essentially involves two things:

1. Telling others the Good News about Jesus
2. Helping other Christians follow Jesus better

“Goal” of Discipling – a worthy walk – v. 12

3 Basic Actions of Discipling

1. **Caring** – attentive to needs, watching out for other Christians, being proactive, personal, present.
2. **Directing** – not into our own opinions or preferences, but into the Word of God.
3. **Modeling** – simply living out our own “worthy walk,” as an authentic and intentional pattern

1) Care (v. 7-9)

a) Gentle – v. 7

This means mild, kind, very thoughtful

b) Affection – v. 8

Affection is an inward movement of the heart that desires to deepen relationship.

c) Sacrificial – v. 9

Praxis

1. Think of 10 specific ways a mom actively “cares” for her small child. What parallels might there be for each of those in discipling another Christian?
2. When are specific times when it is hard to be gentle/kind as you seek to help / direct a fellow believer? What is it that makes these such a challenge?
3. What are reasons that “affection” (desire for relationships) with other Christians may wane? What about for you personally?
4. If Paul metaphorically presents moms as relational and dads as truth-tellers, which side do you fall off toward in your Christian relationships? How might you further balance yourself toward both?
5. What sacrifice do you anticipate having to make to move yourself more toward a “caring” discipleship of other believers.