



love God

build the Church

reach the World

Build the Church

- By *making and maturing* disciples of Christ
- By equipping and serving the body of Christ

Corrective of last week's 5 Stages of Spiritual paradigm based on feedback and reflection



John 13:34-35

*A new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another:
just as I have loved you,
you also are to love one another.*

*By this all people will know
that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.*



What does Jesus' commandment of loving discipleship relationships look like as fleshed out in the NT?

We can do no better than to look at the unfolding "one another" passages of the NT for an answer.



Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. (Romans 12:10)

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. (Romans 12:16)

Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. (Romans 14:13)

...that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. (1 Corinthians 12:25)



All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. (1 Corinthians 16:20)

Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding. (2 Corinthians 10:12)

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:11)



For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (Galatians 5:13)

with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:2-3)

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)



but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. (Ephesians 5:18-21)

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. (1 Thessalonians 5:15)



But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Hebrews 3:13)

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (James 5:16)



Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: (1 Peter 4:9-10)

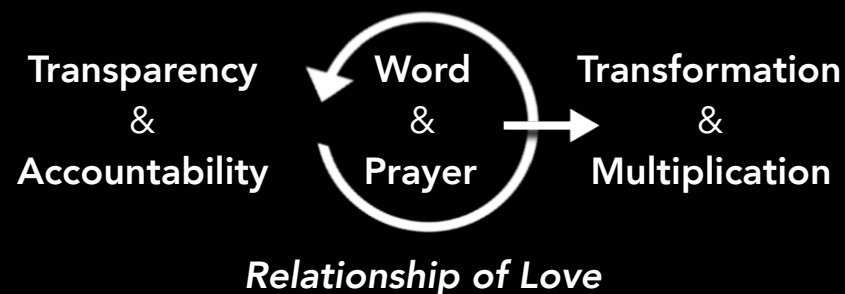
- Necessary tie-in with previous Core Values



- This is what love looks like in the NT.
- It is this kind of Christ-love that is the true mark of discipleship and disciple making.
- It is highly relational, includes certain elements, and has a certain purpose.
- This in contrast to merely a content-focused approach. Rather, telling-showing-doing.
- A summary paradigm that I hope helpfully summarizes this kind of **Relational Discipleship**.



Relational Discipleship



Discipleship is the growth in relationships of mutual transparency and accountability around the Word and prayer for the purpose of transformation and multiplication in a relationship of love as followers of Jesus Christ.

Application

- **RD can be applied in various size groups**
 - Jesus' model of multitudes, the 12, the 3 - with others on the periphery, close women followers
 - The benefit/weaknesses of varying sized groups
- **RD can be applied in various settings**
 - Jesus' model of preaching, conversations at meals, along the way traveling, personal meetings, engagement with strangers, Q & A, in the temple, garden talks,
 - Discipleship within a marriage/parenting
- **RD can be applied from informal to formal ways**
 - What works best based on things like purpose/personality
- **RD is an important way to discover/encourage spiritual gifts - service**