

...thinking more “what can I do,” or “what is ‘the church’ doing”?

...more open towards others, or closed?

...more forgiving and patient, or offendable and demanding?

...interacting more with a diversity of others, or narrowly?

**Do I**...only talk with my friends? ...stick with those who are in my demographic? ...avoid my demographic? talk with others, but really only talk about my interests? ...show up minimally? ...help out only in ways or areas where I'm comfortable? ...avoid helping out while distressing over what I'm not or what we're not? ...only want to use my skills? ...avoid using my skills? ...pride myself on showing up and helping out, but avoid pushing into discipleship? ...look at an activity or those involved in an activity and say “that's not for me, because it won't be any fun”?

**Am I**...harboring anything toward or against someone(s) else that could be impeding my discipleship or theirs? ...actually active in developing relationships (e.g. am I around people, do I go to people, do I welcome people, am I creating trustworthy rapport with people, do I demonstrate a genuine interest in people, am I looking at those ahead of me and those behind me)? ...unduly holding myself back due to experiences or perceptions? ...making it difficult for myself because of habits or circumstances in my life? ...making provision for assumptions or attitudes that make it difficult to pursue (or receive) others?

**What ideas do you have that you think could contribute to our church having a disciple-making culture?**

...either personal or corporate?

...either informal or formal?

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Danny Capon, *Pastor*

**A Culture of Disciple-Making**

Part 6 | Putting It Together (continued)

**Ephesians 4:1-6 and Philippians 2:1-4**

## Introduction

A Culture of Disciple-Making

**culture** = “the way of life, especially the general customs and beliefs, of a particular group of people at a particular time; the attitudes, behavior, opinions, etc. of a particular group of people within society” (Cambridge Dictionary)

what people... + ...cultivate... = ...results in a certain culture

**disciple** = following > learning > becoming

## The Church

Should all local churches have a culture of disciple-making?

(What are alternative cultures local churches have instead?)

How can all local churches pursue a culture of disciple-making?

(What reveals that local churches are pursuing a culture of disciple-making?)

### Four Key Passages

Part 1 | **Matthew 16:13-20** | “**I will build my church**”—The church is focal point of what Jesus is doing now—it should be the focal point of those who claim to follow Him

Part 2 | **Matthew 28:16-20** | “**Make disciples of all nations**”—Jesus’ disciples making other disciples is the way He plans to build His church—now, until the end of the age

Part 3 | **Acts 1:1-11; 2:1-47** | “**Witness and come together**”—Going and witnessing to unbelievers, and being devoted to and gathering with believers is the way Jesus’ disciples make other disciples

Part 4 | **Ephesians 4:1-10, 11-16** | “**Be equipped and minister to one another**”

“**I will build my church**” >

by His **disciples** “**making disciples of all the nations**” >

by His **disciples** “**witnessing**” to unbelievers + “**being devoted**” to (edifying) **believers** >

by His **disciples** holding together with Him and each other + **contributing to the Body** what is proper for each one

Discipleship is about being a follower of Jesus Christ who seeks to become more like Him and helps others do the same.

Discipleship thus includes both evangelizing unbelievers and edifying other believers.

Discipleship is the mission of local churches, which means that it is also the mission of believers together.

Discipleship thus should be the dominant category of a believer's life and the dominant culture of a local church.

Putting It Together (continued)...

What does this mean for me?

**SHOW UP** | <sup>ESV</sup> **Hebrews 10:24** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> 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.

**HELP OUT** | <sup>ESV</sup> **1 Corinthians 12:4** Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

**INVEST IN** | <sup>ESV</sup> **Colossians 1:28** Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. <sup>29</sup> For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

informal vs formal, with the church vs one-to-one, general vs intensive, encouraging vs admonishing, topic-specific vs any Scripture, sharing about life vs sharing our common life, one-off vs ongoing

- Discipleship *should* be the practice of every believer.
- And, discipleship is *normally* primarily practiced within the context of one's local church.
- Yet, every believer *is* different.
- And, every believer will *likely* be involved in discipleship in different ways.

**Our local church's culture will become a culture of disciple-making to the degree that...**

- ...we all know, believe, and practice discipleship to the degree that each one of us is able;
- ...we all do what each one of us can (and should) to take personal responsibility to grow up and help others to do the same;

- ...we all recognize, embrace, assist, and encourage everyone doing their part;
- ...we all see to faithfully model discipleship and perpetuate it with others.

By stating all of this, I'm *not* necessarily saying that...

- ...every discipleship opportunity must be some sort of program (e.g. a one-to-one Bible study)
- ...everyone needs to be involved in each other's lives in the same way
- ...every time we gather (whether as a whole church, part of the church, or one-to-one) we should incorporate the same elements
- ...everything we talk about (and do) is focused exclusively on Jesus
- ...everything that any of us does must be done with each other (our church)

**One significant ingredient** we all need to (and can) pursue...

**OUTWARD-FACING**

**Ephesians 4:1-6**

*Observations*

*Implications*

My identity...

My unity...

My values...

My practices...

**Philippians 2:1-4**

*Observations*

*Implications*

Am I...

...more gracious towards others, or critical?