

Discipleship is in Relationships

1 Thessalonians 2:1-13



Biblical maturity means becoming more Christ-like in your thinking, values and character, so that you represent Jesus well to others and glorify God. *And this is not something you can do primarily in private, as an individualist.*

Mentor
Discipleship
And
Peer
Discipleship

What are key elements in discipleship relationships?

1 Thessalonians 2

¹ You yourselves know, dear brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not a failure.

1 Thessalonians 2

² You know how badly we had been treated at Philippi just before we came to you and how much we suffered there. Yet our God gave us the courage to declare his Good News to you boldly, in spite of great opposition.

1 Thessalonians 2

³ So you can see we were not preaching with any deceit or impure motives or trickery.



1 Thessalonians 2

⁴ For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts.



1 Thessalonians 2

⁵ Never once did we try to win you with flattery, as you well know. And God is our witness that we were not pretending to be your friends just to get your money!




1 Thessalonians 2

⁶ As for human praise, we have never sought it from you or anyone else.




1 Thessalonians 2

⁷ As apostles of Christ we certainly had a right to make some demands of you, but instead we were like children among you. Or we were like a mother feeding and caring for her own children.



1 Thessalonians 2

⁸ We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.



1 Thessalonians 2

⁹ Don't you remember, dear brothers and sisters, how hard we worked among you? Night and day we toiled to earn a living so that we would not be a burden to any of you as we preached God's Good News to you.

1 Thessalonians 2

¹⁰ You yourselves are our witnesses—and so is God—that we were devout and honest and faultless toward all of you believers.

1 Thessalonians 2

¹¹ And you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children.

1 Thessalonians 2

¹² We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his Kingdom and glory.

If Discipleship is in Relationships then what is the Message?

"God's Good News"
(vs. 2-4, 8, 9)

If Discipleship is in Relationships then what is the Message?

1. God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. (Jn. 3:16; 10:10)
2. Humanity is sinful and separated from God. Therefore, we cannot know and experience God's love and plan for our life. (Ro. 3:23; 6:23)
3. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sin. Through Him we can know and experience God's love and plan for our life. (Ro. 5:8; 1 Cor. 15:3-6; Jn. 14:6)
4. We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives. (Jn. 1:12; Ep. 2:8-9)

If Discipleship is in Relationships then what is the Message?

Also, it is the revelation of all that God has given us through Christ to grow to spiritual maturity.

If Discipleship is in Relationships then what is the Message?

**GOD'S
RICHES
AT
CHRIST
EXPENCE**

"God did not give us His gospel just so we could embrace it and be converted. Actually, He offers it to us every day as a gift that keeps giving to us everything we need (to grow to spiritual maturity). The wise believer learns this truth early and becomes proficient in extracting available benefits from the gospel each day."

Milton Vincent, *The Gospel Primer for Christians* (2008) p. 5

1 Thessalonians 2

¹³ ... You accepted what we said as the very word of God—which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe.

If Discipleship is in Relationships then what is the Motive?

⁴ For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts. ⁵ Never once did we try to win you with flattery, as you well know. And God is our witness that we were not pretending to be your friends just to get your money! ⁶ As for human praise, we have never sought it from you or anyone else.

If Discipleship is in Relationships then what is the Manner?

⁷ ... Or we were like a mother feeding and caring for her own children.

¹¹ And you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children. ¹² We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy...

Message & Motive & Manner

What *one* step is God calling you to take down this path?

- Is it to ask someone in our church to meet regularly to do this?
- Is it to repent of self-centered motives in this relationship?
- Is it to work at being more nurturing or challenging?

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