

Concepts

Stages of Apprenticeship in Jesus

1. Confidence in and reliance upon Jesus as the "Son of Man."
2. Desire to be his apprentice in living in and from the kingdom of God.
3. Obedience to what Jesus said and did.
4. Pervasive inner transformation of the will/spirit/heart and soul.
5. Power to work the works of the kingdom.

How to Practice the Disciplines

1. Decide to live as Jesus' student
2. Begin to obey his teachings
3. Observe why you fail
4. Do, in reliance on the Holy Spirit, what will remove the cause of failure - these will be disciplines.

The Three Dimensions of Discipleship.

1. Obedience to his commands.
2. Doing what he wants in all areas of life not commanded.
3. Learning to act in his power.

The Place of Discipleship: Wherever I am now, and whatever I am doing now. Our work/job is of special importance in discipleship, for that is where we put most of our time and effort. To leave God out of that is to exclude Him from most of our life.

Faith, Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace - the "magnificent five" - are inseparable from one another and reciprocally support each other. Try to imagine any one without the others!

The Four Great Questions of Life:

1. What is Reality?
2. Who is well-off? What is Blessedness? The Good Life?
3. Who is a really good person?
4. How does one become a really good person?

God's Intent for Each of Us: That we should become the kind of person whom he can empower to do whatever we want.

The Gospel of Jesus: That life in the Kingdom is available to us now. We can experience the Kingdom and live in it by placing our confidence in Jesus for everything, and by being His constant students precisely because we have confidence in Him.

Three Parts of the Great Commission:

1. Make disciples, apprentices to Jesus in kingdom living.

2. Submerge them in the Trinitarian life that flows in the community of disciples of Jesus. Baptism symbolizes this.
3. Teach these disciples to do - showing them how to do - everything Jesus said.

The Human Burden: To find an adequate knowledge basis for life.

[Knowledge] The Difference between Belief and Knowledge

- A. What Knowledge Is: The act (or capacity) of representing (thinking about, talking about, dealing with) a corresponding subject matter as it is, on an appropriate basis of thought and experience, including good “authority.” It includes truth and openness of method. LOOK AT THE COMMON CASES IN LIFE.
- B. You believe something, by contrast, if you are (to some degree) inclined to act as if it were so. Neither truth nor evidence required. We often “pick up” beliefs, like lint or viruses, from our surroundings.
- C. Knowledge alone provides the right and responsibility to act, direct action, formulate policy and supervise its implementation, and to teach. Knowledge is:
 - Common—not rare or esoteric.
 - Not dogmatic, nor necessarily certain—You don’t have to know that you know in order to know. Sometimes we do know that we or others know, and sometimes not.
 - Does not exclude love or grace. We often know by the assistance of grace, and love helps us know what we love.
- D. The biblical picture of the life of faith is belief environed in knowledge.

Life in Christ - The Biblical Picture:

1. It's all true
2. It works in real life
3. It's accessible to anyone
4. There is nothing on earth that compares to it.

Manifestations of Divine Power: you will see accomplished by your words and actions what cannot possibly be explained by your efforts and talents.

Mission Statement for Christ’s People: (Matthew 28:19-20)

1. Make students (disciples, apprentices) to me from all kinds of people.
2. Submerge them in the trinitarian life that flows over the communities of disciples.
3. Train them to do everything I commanded.

[Moral] “The Disappearance of Moral Knowledge” refers to the current condition in our society in which the institutions of education do not “officially” present a

body of truths about good and bad, right and wrong, as knowledge, rationally developed and critiqued.

Morally Good Person: One who is intent upon advancing the various goods of human life with which they are effectively in contact, in a manner that respects their relative degrees of importance and the extent to which the actions of the person in question can actually promote the existence and maintenance of those goods.

- Morally evil person: One intent upon destroying human goods.

Spiritual Life: Life that is intermingled with and dependent upon God's action "with us."

- "Flesh" is the kind of activity that does not immediately depend upon God's action.

- "The World" is the order of social and natural existence of which every human being is a part. It is socially organized flesh.

Spiritual Person: One who is leading a life that is largely intermingled with and dependent upon the action of God and his kingdom.

- The non-spiritual person is one who is leading a life independent of God's action with them.

The Mark of the Spirit in an Activity is always the incommensurability of the result to the effort.

Spiritual Transformation only happens as each essential dimension of the human being is transformed into Christlikeness under the direction of a regenerate will interacting with constant overtures of grace from God in many forms. Such transformation is not the result of mere human effort and cannot be accomplished by putting pressure on the will (will power) alone.

[Study] Helpful Ways of Bible Study:

1. Read long stretches of the Bible at a time
2. Read the same book once a day for ten days
3. Look for the big picture
4. Memorize longer passages

The Three Stories About Our World:

1. The Theistic Story - Everything derives from a personal God who is ultimate.
2. The Nirvana Story - Everything derives from a reality that is undifferentiated - the realm of "no thing." 'New Age.'
3. The Materialistic Story - The physical universe itself is the only ultimate reality.

Who You Are and Why You Are Here: You are an unceasing spiritual being with an eternal destiny in God's great universe.

The Will Transformed into Christlikeness will exhibit single-minded and joyous devotion to God and His will and to service to others because of Him.