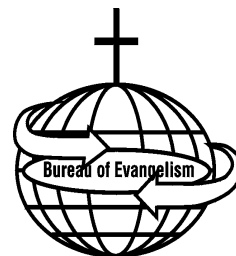


# CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP SEMINAR



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Topic:  
**“The Pastor’s Role in Making Disciples”**

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## “The Pastor’s Role in Making Disciples”

**Proposition:** In his book, *The Disciple-making Pastor*, Bill Hull reveals how the pastor can play one of the most critical roles in the church’s mission of making Christian disciples.<sup>1</sup>

### I. The Understanding of a Disciple-Making Pastor [Getting the Big Picture of the Church’s Mission]

- A. **Understanding what the mission is**—*the kingdom is the model*. (vision)
1. The church’s mission is to take the rule of Christ to the world and to all of life.
  2. The church’s mission is big enough to motivate people for a lifetime.
- B. **Understanding what makes the mission achievable**—*the cross is the means*. (resources & character)
1. The death and resurrection of Christ provided the supernatural *resources* needed to take the rule of Christ to the world.
    - a. Salvation from the penalty of sin
    - b. Regeneration or the new birth
    - c. Enablement to live by the power of the Spirit
  2. The lessons of the cross provide the *character* to commit to the cause.
    - a. Dedication: committing oneself to the cause
    - b. Self-denial: saying no to self in order to say yes to God and His mission
    - c. Self-sacrifice: the willingness to take up one’s cross every day to follow Christ
- C. **Understanding how to achieve the mission**—*the commission is the method*. (disciple making)
1. Making disciples who will multiply themselves is the imperative of the Great Commission.
  2. Making disciples who will multiply themselves is the methodology required for reaching the world.
- D. **Understanding how to sustain the commitment**—*the coming is the motive*. (reward & accountability)
1. The return of Christ brings the possibility of personal reward.
  2. The return of Christ brings the reality of personal accountability.

### II. The Commitment of a Disciple-Making Pastor

- A. **The commitment to placing disciple making at the heart of the church**
1. By proclaiming it from the pulpit
  2. By writing it down and making it church dogma
  3. By modeling disciple-making at the elder level (pastor & church leaders)
- B. **The commitment to clearly identifying and communicating the roles of the pastor, the people, and the discipling process**

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<sup>1</sup> Bill Hill, *The Disciple-Making Pastor: The Key to Building Healthy Christians in Today’s Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell, 1988), pp. 104-189.

1. The pastor must be devoted to the following:
  - a. The ministry of the word and prayer (Acts 6:1-7)
  - b. The training and deployment of leaders (2 Tim. 2:2) [disciple makers]
  - c. The management of the ministry (1 Pet. 5:1-5)
2. The people must be equipped to do the following: (Eph. 4:11-16)
  - a. To participate in church ministry
  - b. To participate in pastoral care
  - c. To participate in evangelistic outreach
3. The disciple making process must do the following:
  - a. Provide a phased process
  - b. Help people understand where they are in the process
  - c. Motivate them to move along in the process

**C. The commitment to the priesthood of all believers**

1. The priesthood of all believers implies that Christians have the authority and responsibility to minister for Christ as the priesthood traditionally did.
2. The priesthood of all believers fosters that each believer possesses a spiritual gift, a special call, and should be serving Christ in some concrete work.
3. The pastor's commitment to the priesthood of all believers is demonstrated in the following ways:
  - a. He or she gives permission.
  - b. He or she gives direction.
  - c. He or she gives training.

**D. The commitment to multiplication**

1. The successful completion of the Great Commission depends on multiplication.
  - a. Making converts, (people who become Christians) is reproduction (addition).
  - b. Making disciples (Christians who reproduce themselves) is multiplication
2. Biblical principles will insure multiplication.
  - a. Prioritizing Disciple Making (Matthew 28:18-20)
  - b. Proper Selection of Personnel (2 Timothy :2)
    - 1) Multiplication requires several passes of the baton.
    - 2) Multiplication requires that those who have it must pass it on.
    - 3) Multiplication means passing it on to the right people.
    - 4) Multiplication means passing it on to qualified people.
  - c. Reasons to Multiply (Matthew 9:36-38)
    - 1) Compassion
    - 2) Prayer
    - 3) A plan

### III. The Practices of a Disciple-Making Pastor

- A. **Practicing the principle of selectivity** [applying scriptural qualifications to the selection of leaders]
1. It protects the product (a disciple).
  2. It produces a good product
  3. It protects the church from trouble.
  4. It models the objective. (disciple making)
  5. It gives people something to which they can aspire.
- B. **Practicing philosophical purity on the leadership level** [agreement about the church's goal and product]
1. Has a heart for disciple making.
  2. Is a proven disciple maker.
  3. Has strong biblical knowledge.
  4. Agrees with methods and priorities of the church.
- C. **Practicing accountability** [the direction, discipline, and support to reach godly goals]
1. It's a means for quality control. (Matthew 18:15-17;; Titus 3:10;11)
  2. It facilitates leadership. (Hebrews 13:17)
  3. It protects the congregation. (Hebrews 13:17)
  4. It makes ministry a joy. (Hebrews 13:17)
  5. It helps people keep their commitment to God. (1 Thessalonians 5:14)
    - a. Warn the unruly [rebellion, disobedience, idleness or neglect]
    - b. Encourage the fainthearted [the fearful & timid]
    - c. Help the weak [Whether physical, emotional, spiritual, etc]
- D. **Using the small group for disciple making**
1. Small group ministry is superior to the other two primary forms of discipleship.
    - a. Large group ministry is only the first step in the disciple making process.
      - 1) Its primary tools are public address, music, drama, film, and the spoken word.
      - 2) It is primarily for inspiration and motivation.
      - 3) It is used to help interest people in Christ and the Mission.
      - 4) It can tell people the "what" and the "why" of the disciple making.
      - 5) It is Christ's invitation to "Come and See!"
    - b. One on one ministry is vital to the disciple making process, but not as the primary method.
      - 1) It is primarily for fine-tuning
      - 2) It mentors prospective leaders.
      - 3) It lets them do ministry and deploys them to lead in ministry.
      - 4) It is Christ's invitation to "Come and Be with Me!"
    - c. Small group ministry is the most effective vehicle for full-orbed disciple making.
      - 1) It is primarily for teaching and training.
      - 2) It establishes people in the basics of discipleship.
      - 3) It trains people by showing them how and doing it with them.
      - 4) It is Christ's invitation to "Come and Follow Me!"
  2. The small group is Jesus' example.
  3. The small group provides the proper ministry flow.

4. The small group provides a controlled environment.
  - a. An environment where basic skills can be developed.
    - 1) A working knowledge of Scripture
    - 2) A belief in and understanding of prayer
    - 3) The benefits of sharing one's life with others
    - 4) The ability to communicate the message of Christ
  - b. An environment where there are positive peer relationships.
  - c. An environment where people will experience accountability.
  - d. An environment where people can be trained to do outreach projects.
  - e. An environment where disciple makers can be trained effectively.

E. **Practicing the decentralization of pastoral care**

1. Pastoral care is a corporate responsibility [the ministry of the entire body]
2. The decentralization of pastoral care is important.
  - a. It enables the proper use of the pastor [declaring, training, and managing].
  - b. It enables the proper use of the body [laity are equipped for ministry & pastoral care].

