

# ***Deformed Discipleship***

## **Disciples Are Made, Not Born (pages 75-76)**

- “You reproduce after your own kind whether you like it or not.”
  - Paul said, “Be followers of me.” We say to ourselves and to our disciples, “Paul was able to say that, but I cannot. Therefore, ‘Follow Jesus Christ, don’t follow me!’”
  - Your disciple will follow you whether you want him to or not. As you disciple a young Christian, he will follow you just as naturally as a young child follows his parents. He will become what you are, not what you say. This is because he can SEE you and is not able to see Christ in a tangible way at this time.
  - Example: You preach on evangelism all the time, but if you yourself are not involved in it, neither will your disciple.

Abraham said his wife was his sister to save his life. (Gen. 20:2)

Isaac did the same thing. (Genesis 26:7)

Eli did not raise his sons well. (I Samuel 2:12-17)

Samuel, his disciple, did the same thing. (I Samuel 8:1-5)

- You must be the kind of person you want your disciples to become!

## **Lost Art of Disciplemaking (pages 105-106)**

Problems in the life of the trainer:

- Possessive Attitude “My man,” and “My team.”
  - Paul referred to the people he ministered to as his “little children”—yet he was quick to remind them they belonged to God.
  - Example: Peter learned this lesson “Feed my sheep.” (John 21:17) Peter admonished elders to “feed the flock of God.” (I Peter 5:2)
  - You can stunt the growth of the disciple if they are not exposed to other men of God who can have an impact on their life.
  - Trainer might worry his ministry will lose vitality in the eyes of his disciples if they see other trainers equally gifted, or perhaps with strengths and abilities the trainer does not have.
  - Example: Dawson Trotman modeled cross-training by training others in and letting disciples go to other ministries.
- Blindness to Weaknesses: As you see the disciple grow and realize how far they have come, you do not see their weaknesses. You miss areas of need in their lives that you should deal with. Expose them to the influence and scrutiny of other godly examples that can help you evaluate strengths and weaknesses objectively.
- Reproducing Weaknesses: (Luke 6:40) People we are discipling notice our strengths as well as our weaknesses. If you have exclusive input into a person’s life, it can lead to that person picking up my weak points thereby doing him harm as well as good.
  - It therefore becomes important for cross-training and cross-evaluation. Deliberately expose your disciples to other disciplemakers who can broaden their horizon and deepen their life. These other disciplemakers can spot weak points that you overlook or are unable to see because of close proximity to them. Then, you can have a realistic picture of the spiritual progress of your disciples.