

Growing One Another: Discipleship in the Church (Week 4)

The Means of Discipleship: Following Godly Examples

Getting Started:

1. What are some things that you have learned more by imitation than by interaction?

Main Idea:

Learning from godly examples is a crucial aspect of Christian discipleship. This means that we should both seek out godly examples to follow and set a godly example for others.

Digging in:

Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

1. What fault does Paul find with the saying "All things are lawful" (vv. 23-24)? What does this teach us about Paul's priorities as a Christian?
2. What does Paul instruct the Corinthians to do in verses 28-29 and 32-33? Why?
3. What does Paul tell us to do in 11:1?
Does it seem self-centered or proud to you for one Christian to say to another, "Imitate me, as I imitate Christ"? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think Paul tells the Corinthians to imitate his conduct, in addition to giving them instructions in writing? Why is imitating others' good examples an important aspect of discipleship?

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17

5. What has Timothy “followed” (vv. 10-11)? How will this help him to resist ungodly influences?

 6. What does Paul say will happen to:
 - a. All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus (v. 12)?

 - b. Evil people and impostors (v. 13)?

 7. What does Paul tell Timothy to do in light of the reality of what will happen to the godly and the evil person (vv. 14-15)?
- Why does it matter that Timothy remembers the person “from whom [he] learned” what he firmly believes?

Questions for Application

8. As we’ve seen throughout this study, it’s important for Christians to learn through imitation in addition to instruction. What are some pitfalls of learning by instruction only and not having close relationships with godly role models?

9. If learning by imitation is a large part of discipleship, why is being involved in a healthy church crucial for the Christian life?

10. Within the life of the church, what are some practical steps which the call to imitate godly examples requires you to take?

11. As a Christian, you have the responsibility – and the joyful opportunity – to set a godly example for others to follow. How should that impact the way you live your day-to-day life? What are some practical steps you can take to personally model godliness for others?