

Discipling Those Who are Considering Becoming Missionaries

Finally, a few thoughts on what to consider if the person you are discipling seems like they may want to become a missionary.

First, get them to start talking with others.

Second, encourage them to talk to a church leader sooner rather than later.

Third, help them realize the church sends missionaries, not they themselves.

Fourthly, consider what the church would be looking for in a potential missionary:

- Dependability;
- faithfulness in attendance and serving in the church;
- stable Christian beliefs;
- a track record of good judgment;
- a consistent prayer life and quiet times;
- sound theological understanding of God, Christ, man, and Scripture.

Conclusion:

- Concern for evangelism and missions is a basic part of what it means to be a faithful Christian disciple.
- Helping our friends to understand this truth will give them greater joy, and God his rightful glory.

Next Week: Discipling People who are Hurting.

Core Seminars—Discipling Class10: Encouraging a Passion for Evangelism & Missions



In some sense, these are not too separate topics. Evangelism is telling the gospel to unbelievers; missions is doing evangelism, expect across cultural barriers.

Part 1. Encouraging Evangelism

We begin by thinking about some reasons why we evangelize.

1. Evangelism is compelled and commanded for Christians

In 2 Corinthians 5:11, 14, the apostle Paul writes, “Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men...Christ love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.”

2. Evangelism is a source of joy for Christians

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints (Philemon 1:4-7).

3. Evangelism is for God's Glory

God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Christ (Romans 3:25-26).

Encouraging Evangelism in Discipling

Discipleship is not behavior modification, but the shaping of a Christian's heart, mind, desires, and motivation.

An active concern for the lost teaches volumes for others.

Take some time to think through how you can strategically reach out to others.

Read together a book on evangelism. A few suggestions: *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*, JI Packer; *Words to Winners of Souls*, Bonar; *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism*, Mark Dever; *Tell the Truth*, Will Metzger; *Christianity Explained & Two Ways to Live*, Matthias Media.

Keep in mind the importance of a church in evangelism.

Part 2. Encouraging Missions

Here are a few reasons *why* we want to encourage missions in discipling.

1. Missions is not an Optional
2. An Engagement with Missions Facilitates Spiritual Growth (3 John 1-8)
3. An Engagement with Missions Brings God Glory (Romans 15:8-9, 15-16)
4. Missions Seldom Discussed as part of Basic Discipleship

Encouraging Missions in Discipling

Make the topic of missions a regular part of your relationship.

When you get together you can make a point to regularly pray for missions and missionaries.

Read together a good book on missions. A few suggestions: *Let the Nations be Glad*, John Piper; *Operation World*, Patrick Johnstone; *A Vision for Missions*, Tom Wells; *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*, Ruth Tucker; *Mack and Leeann's Guide to Short-term Missions*, Mack Stiles.

You can also consider various missionary biographies: *To the Golden Shore: The Life of Adoniram Judson*, Courtney Anderson; *Faithful Witness: The Life and Mission of William Carey*, Timothy George

Model a concern for missions.

Talk specifically about their role in global missions.