

CONTRAST #6: LOVE vs LAW

(Life) (List)

KEY PRINCIPLE:

Rather than seeking to generate performance that adheres to a "code of ethics" or a list of "spiritual standards" that gives every appearance of spirituality by how it looks and sounds, simply focus on teaching those you are discipling to _____ through His _____.

KEY THOUGHTS:

CONTRAST #7: HEART vs HEAD

(Relationship) (Information)

KEY PRINCIPLE:

Keep in mind that our goal is not to be used to teach the people we are discipling to know _____. Bible knowledge is never an _____ in itself, but rather a _____ to another end. The end is _____!

KEY THOUGHTS:

CONTRAST #8: HUMILITY vs HIGH-MINDEDNESS

KEY PRINCIPLE:

Discipleship is not transferring _____ from one _____ into another. It is transferring the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ into the _____ of another person. For that simple fact alone, true discipleship can only take place when it flows out of a _____ of _____.

KEY THOUGHTS:

CONTRAST #9: MINISTRY vs MACHINERY

KEY PRINCIPLE:

Though our intent is to create a culture at Northwest where Discipleship is not only descriptive of _____ we _____, but actually defines _____ we _____, we must constantly and tenaciously guard against it becoming a _____!

The difficulty, is that in order to become good stewards of the souls God gives to us at Northwest, and to provide effective ministry for their spiritual growth and development, discipleship requires definite _____ and detailed _____. We must have the wisdom to be able to work within the framework of our structure, without it becoming _____ and _____. We must labor to create an environment of freedom, so that a very genuine and natural discipleship takes place.

KEY THOUGHTS:

CONTRAST #10: FRIENDSHIP vs FOLLOW-UP

KEY PRINCIPLE:

Discipleship is all about carrying out "The Mission." But Jesus never let "The Mission" simply become His _____. What drove Him was His _____ for bringing _____ to His Father, and His _____ for _____. Because of those two key things, Jesus did not provide His disciples a part-time _____, but a full-time _____.

It will likewise be our _____ to bring God _____, and our _____ for _____, that allows us to be the biblical _____ those we are discipling need us to be.

KEY THOUGHTS:

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

01.31.09

1. What was the most significant Scripture, statement or principle that you took away from this morning's message, "First Things First"?
2. The passage from which the message was taken this morning (Matthew 28:19-20), is commonly referred to as "The Great Commission." Let's read Mathew 28:19-20 again, and then share our thoughts about what it is that is so "great" about "The Great Commission."
3. Perhaps some of the thoughts your group had were similar to the ones listed below.

"The Great Commission" is "great" because of...

- The "greatness" of the ONE who gave it!
(Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself! There is simply none greater!)
- The "greatness" of the SCOPE of our mission!
(We are to "teach—or make disciples of—ALL NATIONS!" It spans the entire globe!)
- The "greatness" of the PROMISE given to those who fulfill it: The promise of both His POWER and His PRESENCE!
(*"All power is given unto me...Go ye THEREFORE!"* And, *"Lo, I am with you always."*)

- a. Is there some aspect of "The Great Commission" that we've talked about tonight that seems to make "The Great Commission" even "greater" in your mind?
- b. Which aspect of the "greatness" of "The Great Commission" that we've talked about tonight is the greatest motivation to you?

4. Someone has suggested that because of how few "Christians" actually involve themselves in "The Great Commission," that perhaps it should be renamed "The Great Suggestion." However, Pastor Harrell identified four biblical realities for those who refuse what our Lord is commanding in Matthew 28:18-20.
 - They are DISOBEDIENT Christians.
Luke 6:46- "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"
I John 2:4- "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."
 - They don't LOVE the Lord the way they should.
John 14:23- Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.
 - They are not FOLLOWING Christ.
Mark 1:17- And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.
 - They are not ABIDING in Christ.
John 15:5- I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

- a. In light of the teaching of the above principles and passages, how could it be that so few Christians are actually obedient to "The Great Commission?"
- b. What do you believe is the greatest hindrance to people who profess to know Christ, but are not obedient to "The Great Commission?"

5. In today's message we learned that in light of Matthew 28:18-19, we are to:

- MAKE disciples.
- MARK disciples.
- MATURE disciples.

a. Which of the three needs to happen for you personally?

- I need to be MADE a disciple of Christ. (I need to be saved.)
- I need to be MARKED as a disciple of Christ. (I need to be baptized.)
- I need to be MATURED as a disciple of Christ. (I need someone to teach me.)

b. In light of your response, what is the action step you need to take to see that actually happen?

6. At the conclusion of today's message, Pastor Harrell challenged us to come next Sunday with the name of one lost person on our heart, and to begin praying for them this week. If God has already placed that individual on your heart, let's end our time together tonight by praying for them.