

## HABIT 4: EMBRACING DISCIPLING / ONE ANOTHER RELATIONSHIPS

Jesus revolutionized religion by demonstrating God’s ultimate goal for every one of us: great relationships with God and people. Jesus taught us to approach God like a child seeking his daddy’s face. Now that God adopts us as his children, Jesus embraces us as family – his brothers and sisters. Jesus’ followers likewise embrace one another as family – “each member belongs to all the others” (Romans 12:5). Our relationships are best described as “one another” relationships with the ultimate goal of helping each other become more like Jesus.

**Memory Verse: John 13:34-35**

*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*

### **THE STANDARD: Love Like Jesus**

We *MODEL* our relationships after Jesus

- 1) **Focused Friendships:** He called his disciples to him and chose twelve. (Luke 6:13)
- 2) **Situational Friendships:** He loved and disciplined all who came into in his life.

*How do we put these concepts into practice in our busy, fast-paced world?*

- 1) Develop focused relationships through “discipleship partners” and “discipleship groups.”
- 2) **Goal:** help everyone live out “one another relationships” to become like Jesus.

### **THE COMMAND: One Another Relationships**

*There are 59 “One Another” Scriptures in the Bible to:*

- 1) Direct Christians how to treat one another
- 2) Govern & instruct “discipling” relationships
- 3) Form the foundation for all relationships

One another relationships in Christ are designed to be at a much deeper level than those in the world.

*“that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.” (Romans 1:12)*

**One Another Scriptures**

*Encourage one another daily (Hebrews 3:13)*  
*Spur one another on toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24)*  
*Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)*  
*Carry each other’s burdens (Galatians 6:2)*  
*Confess your sins to one another (James 5:16)*  
*Pray for one another (Ephesians 6:18)*  
*Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32)*  
*Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21)*

### **THE APPLICATION: Practical Discipling Relationships**

**Definition of discipling:** *A committed relationship/friendship through ongoing conversations about our lives that help us become more like Christ.*

- 1) **Purpose:** to teach, encourage, train, build up, sharpen, help, advise, and give perspective.
- 2) **Two-way:** it involves being open and being real with each other; no one is “over” the other.
- 3) **Relationship:** friends helping friends.
- 4) **Imitation:** Christ is the standard and our lives are examples.
- 5) **Foundation:** the focus of our discipling relationships is our desire to be like Jesus.
- 6) **Commitment:** set and keep a consistent time (weekly is best).

*Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you... (Matthew 28:20)*  
  
*Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:1)*

## 1. DISCIPLING IS: God's plan for maturing Christians

*He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. (Colossians 1:28-29)*

- **Teaching:** to impart skills or knowledge
- **Admonishing:** to notify of a fault; to reprove gently, but seriously; to exhort; to counsel against wrong practices; to caution or advise; to warn against danger or an offense
- **Laboring:** struggling together to be like Jesus

## 2. DISCIPLING IS: Speaking the truth in love

*Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into... Christ. (Ephesians 4:15)*

*Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? (Galatians 4:16)*

*Better is open rebuke than hidden love.*

*Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses. (Proverbs 27:5-6)*

- Better to hear the difficult things about ourselves from a friend than to listen to someone who does not love you enough to challenge you.
- We say, "Level with me!" "Tell it like it is!" "Be honest!" – Do we really want truth?

## 3. DISCIPLING IS: A method for teaching, guiding, helping, and getting advice

*I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another. (Romans 15:14)*

*The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice. (Proverbs 12:15)*

*Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. (Proverbs 15:22)*

*Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise. (Proverbs 19:20)*

## 4. DISCIPLING IS NOT...

- ...the only way to mature in Christ. It is one way to make disciples and live out "one another" Christian relationships!
- ... being fully responsible to get another person to heaven. Discipling helps each individual to work out "their own" salvation! (*Philippians 2:12-13*)
- ... an authority over you, to do what you are told. Discipling helps you obey God! The Word of God is the authority. Seek advice to figure out God's will. (*Romans 12:2*)
- ... primarily confessing sin. Discipling encourages you to overcome sin. (*Hebrews 3:13*)
- ... primarily confronting what needs to change. Discipling helps you grow. (*Prov. 27:17*)
- ... to meet all a person's needs. Discipling helps us meet our own needs. (*Galatians 6:2-5*)  
*Note: Men need other men in their lives and women need other women in their lives.*
- ... primarily accountability time. It is a time to talk and gain spiritual perspective. Accountability is a tool to help us achieve our goals. Be humble and get help!

## 5. EMBRACE DISCIPLING RELATIONSHIPS!

- *Do you have a committed discipling relationship? Have you set and kept a regular time?*

### Ideas for Discipling

- Can be individual or group time
- Help each other with life's ups and downs!
- Pray together: pray for each other
- Read scripture: discuss insights and applications
- Be real: be honest and confess sin
- Openness breeds openness!
- Be a great encourager!
- Be open to encouragement!

### Recommended Reading

\* Gordon Ferguson, *The Power of Discipling*, 2001 [www.ipibooks.com](http://www.ipibooks.com)