

MINISTRY OF DISCIPLESHIP





Lecture 6
The Church's
Discipleship Tension

MINISTRY OF
DISCIPLESHIP

THE THREE MAJOR INFLUENCES

- a. The culture around us.
- b. The people closest to us.
- c. The adopted worldview.

THE THREE MAJOR ENEMIES

- a. The devil.
- b. The flesh.
- c. The world.



Lecture 6
The Church's
Discipleship Tension

MINISTRY OF
DISCIPLESHIP

DISCIPLESHIP TOUCHES THREE AREAS OF SPIRITUALITY

- a. Orthodoxy (Right doctrine)
- b. Orthopraxy (Right practice)
- c. Orthocardio (Right heart)



Lecture 6 The Church's Discipleship Tension

MINISTRY OF
DISCIPLESHIP

THE PROBLEM WITH TEACHING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

- a. We all grow in our faith differently and through different media and methods.
- b. We are not all meant to be clones of one another.
- c. This is the most difficult commission for the church – who is tasked with the responsibility of making disciples – because it cannot implement a one-size fits all process for growing people consistently.
- d. If discipleship is a whole life process, how can the church accomplish this through 1-3 hours a week influence.
- e. Sitting in rows and listening to one-way dialogue is not the best way to grow.



Lecture 6
The Church's
Discipleship Tension

MINISTRY OF
DISCIPLESHIP

HOW PEOPLE GROW

- Need to grow moments.
- Crisis.
- When change needs to happen.
- When connected to significant relationships.
- Practical teaching.
- Serving and giving.
- Private disciplines.
- Love.



Lecture 6
The Church's
Discipleship Tension

MINISTRY OF
DISCIPLESHIP

THE CULTURAL TENSION

- It is post-modern.
- It is post-Christian.
- It is post-truth.
- It is post-biblical.
- It is post-community.
- It is post-commitment.
- It is post-authority.
- It is post-virtue.
- It is post-depth.



Lecture 6 The Church's Discipleship Tension

MINISTRY OF
DISCIPLESHIP

Further tensions:

- Cancel culture.
- An age of deconstruction
- Political leanings.
- Priority of self.
- Ecclesiastical position.
- Guilt/shame.
- Gift projection.
- One dimensional spirituality.
- Sin management.
- “Everyone an expert” syndrome.
- Confirmation versus correction bias.



Lecture 6 The Church's Discipleship Tension

MINISTRY OF
DISCIPLESHIP

DIFFERENT CATEGORIES FOR CONNECTING WITH GOD

- a. Naturalists draw near to God through nature.
- b. Sensates draw near to God through the senses and imagination.
- c. Traditionalists draw near to God through ritual and symbol.
- d. Ascetics draw near to God through solitude and simplicity.
- e. Activists draw near to God through social justice and change.



Lecture 6
The Church's
Discipleship Tension

MINISTRY OF
DISCIPLESHIP

DIFFERENT CATEGORIES FOR CONNECTING WITH GOD

- f. Caregivers draw near to God through caring and serving others.
- g. Enthusiasts draw near to God through celebration, praise, and mystery.
- h. Contemplatives draw near to God through devotion, prayer, and adoration.
- i. Intellectuals draw near to God through their minds.



Lecture 6
The Church's
Discipleship Tension

MINISTRY OF
DISCIPLESHIP

PRACTICAL WAYS OF FOSTERING DISCIPLES

- Continually review the teaching materials being used.
- Look for new ways to invite, invest, integrate and grow people.
- Children are not the church of tomorrow, but the church of today.
- Create sermon series that foster spiritual development.
- Create on ramps and environments for serving and growing deeper.



Lecture 6
The Church's
Discipleship Tension

MINISTRY OF
DISCIPLESHIP

PRACTICAL WAYS OF FOSTERING DISCIPLES

- Teach people how to feed themselves.
 - Build into leaders and their teams.
 - Orient yourself around a Gospel vision.
 - Be compelled by love – both vertically and horizontally (a Great Commandment heart).
-
- Remember - maturity takes time and growth is not a linear process.