

Strategy of Grace – Raising Spiritual Parents

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

(February 3, 2013)

What is God’s solution to raising spiritual parents?

1) Pursue the Lord’s pattern for raising parents Deut. 6:1-9

- Ephesians 6:1-3

2) Pursue the Lord’s pattern in raising disciples Matt 4:18-22

- John 17:6, 17, 20

3) Pursue the Lord’s exhortation to raise spiritual children 1 Thes. 2:5-14; Heb. 5:12-14

What is the wisest approach to help 80% of the congregation become spiritual parents (disciple-makers)? Some possibilities:

- Disciple people to be seminary graduates emphasizing on original languages
- Disciple people to be Bible College graduates from a correspondence network
- Disciple people with years of intense Systematic Theology from the pastor
- Disciple people with years of intense counseling training and practical theology
- Disciple people in small groups teaching various books of the Bible
- Disciple men through the Colossians 2:7 material
- Disciple people in small groups using the Message Based Discussion Questions

Small groups provide a wise environment to develop spiritual parents (disciple-making people):

- There are 10-14 people which is easier to develop trust
- They develop deeper relationships because more time is spent in relationships
- They provide a safe place to be authentic with personal struggles and get help
- They allow for many groups outside the church building
- They provide a back door for people to come to church
- Everyone participates because we learn by doing (teach them and release them)
- There are 12, rather than 30 or 50, so people are willing to lead also
- They let leaders know if people are “getting it” because of greater feedback
- They practice a model where a new person can learn quickly he can lead also
- Often more is caught than taught

- This assumes 1) on-going training, 2) support for disciples and 3) accountability
- This assumes using a material that 80% of the people can grasp, apply and implement

The Lord Jesus gave the example and taught us to become spiritual parents.

- Too many Christians mimic the movie, “Failure to Launch.” The goal is not being independent, but interdependent raising new spiritual parents or disciples to Jesus Christ. Are you in a FG or HG, accountable for growing to the next spiritual level? Is there someone helping you advance?
- God loves you where you are, but where you are God wants you to keep growing. He wants you to become spiritual parents for others. That means adjusting your schedule to fit with others.
- Life is not about you. Life is about Jesus Christ and His message to disciple others, i.e. raise spiritual parents.

Message Based Discussion Questions

- 1) When and how were you taught to be an adult who was ready to raise children?

Digging Deeper:

- 2) In Deuteronomy 6:6, where is the word supposed to be solidified? _____. What will that look like according to the larger context of Deut. 6:1-9?
- 3) How many times was Peter called to follow by Jesus? _____ (compare John 1:35-42 with Matt. 4:18-20). What do you suppose was going through Peter’s mind?
- 4) What are the three challenges Jesus makes in Luke 9:57-62?
 - a) _____ ; _____;
 - b) _____
- 5) What are examples of challenges today that you face in considering the invitation by Jesus (Luke 9:57-62)? How do they hinder disciples from being fully committed to follow Jesus?

Application of the message to life:

- 5) Are you ready to seek the next stage of growth? What are three things you might have to do or rearrange in your life?
- 6) Do you know the miracle and joy of taking responsibility for discipling others in Jesus? How is that more fulfilling than not having spiritual responsibilities?