

Sunday, March 11, 2012

**Practical Christianity**  
**Pastor Charles Mendenhall**

The church is the womb of God where people grow up. If people really never submit to a local church they will never really grow up and develop to the measure that God desires for them to grow and develop in. Considering pastor's background he also said the Lord spoke to him that the church is a place where people are broke to lead. You can have the best of breeds in a horse but if it isn't broke to lead he is worthless. There are people in the body of Christ that never will be broke to lead because they never submit themselves to the covering of a local church. If you submit yourself to the covering of a local church it also means there is a measure of protection for you.

Whether we admit it or not in our growing we are going to get in the ditch a time or two but thank God we make corrections and get back on the right track.

**1 Corinthians 14:1 (AMP)**

***<sup>1</sup>EAGERLY PURSUE and seek to acquire [this] love [make it your aim, your great quest];***

Many times in our love walk we do get in the ditch and get out of love. We are to get back on track. We learn this even in the local church. In our local church we can grow and develop in this. If you are involved in church very long you are going to encounter someone that you may have a personality conflict with.

Making disciples

**John 3:16 (KJV)**

***<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.***

God sent his son for the entire world not just for a select few. It was God's plan that none should perish but unfortunately not everyone is going to believe on Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

The question presented to the congregation is, "What we are doing in relationship to the great commission that the Lord has given us to go into the entire world and preach the gospel and make disciples of all nations or all peoples?"

**Matthew 28:18-19 (KJV)**

***<sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.***

***<sup>19</sup>Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:***

Our commission as a church and as individuals is to make disciples. The calling on Victory Center is to raise up leaders and ministers, to equip people, but it is also to make disciples. All of us have an anointing and a calling to touch people.

**2 Corinthians 3:6 (KJV)**

***<sup>6</sup>Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.***

In making disciples, people come into the kingdom of God as a babe and all the messes that come with them. There is nothing exciting about the process of making a disciple. The excitement is in the finished product. Then there is a sense of satisfaction. An example given was when you invite a family member to visit and you get the whole family. You may also get pets. The truth is you sometimes feel like loving them and whipping them at the same time.

In making disciples you will wonder if they will ever grow to maturity. Without the effort it takes in making disciples you will only have converts. It is hard work, but it is God's way of building His church (Acts 2). If discipling is to occur biblically there is not a way to disciple without teaching the Word of God in the process.

What is a disciple? A disciple is a disciplined learner or pupil. Champions are disciplined and if you are going to be a champion in life at whatever you choose to do; champions do what they don't want to do when they don't want to do them so they can do things they want when they want to do them. A good example is disciplining your children now so they will turn into good adults.

It's the same way spiritually. A disciple is taught discipline along the way. It doesn't happen overnight. The bible teaches that the disciple is to be as their master and not above their master. There is a commitment involved. We should live our lives in the light of eternity.

**Matthew 4:19 (KJV)**

***<sup>19</sup>And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.***

Jesus said fishers of men because he was talking to fishermen. If they would have been teachers he would have told them teachers of men. It was their vocation and he was talking to them in a manner they would understand.

82% of polled un-churched people said they would be likely to attend church if someone would invite them. However, only 2% of church people ever invite someone to church in a given year. 7 out of 10 people in church have never invited anyone to church. If these statistics are true there are many people out there who would come to church if invited. It is part of our calling as individuals to bring people into the kingdom.

Heaven is our destination. We are here on earth passing thru. The grave is not our final destination. Our body is left here for our new one in Heaven. There are those out there that Heaven may not be their destination at this point. If we could see people through God's viewpoint and wanting them to be Heaven-bound we should be more prone to reach out to them.

The following scriptures could be compared to what happens when someone is invited to church.

**Luke 14:16-24 (KJV)**

**<sup>16</sup>Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:**

**<sup>17</sup>And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.**

**<sup>18</sup>And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.**

**<sup>19</sup>And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.**

**<sup>20</sup>And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.**

**<sup>21</sup>So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.**

**<sup>22</sup>And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.**

**<sup>23</sup>And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.**

**<sup>24</sup>For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.**

Everyone has influence upon somebody or casting a shadow on someone's life. Who can you invite to church?

**Ephesians 4:11-12 (AMP)**

**<sup>11</sup>And His gifts were [varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us] some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders), some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, traveling missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers.**

**<sup>12</sup>His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church),**

We as a congregation have a responsibility to have a healthy church. Our lives can touch others.