

A disciple is being equipped to minister to others.

I. Introduction

- A. We are continuing our series on “What a Disciple Looks Like.”
- B. This week we will look at the fact that a disciple is being equipped to minister to others.
- C. The questions about my title reveal how many people do not understand the role of a Pastor.
- D. The role of every Pastor is to “equip the saints for the work of the ministry.”

II. The Scriptures tell us that we are to be equipped for ministry.

- A. Jesus tells his disciples that they are to be fully equipped or trained in Luke 6:40.
 - 1. *“A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.”*
 - 2. It is as a result of being trained, equipped, that we become like Jesus our ultimate teacher.
- B. Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 3: 16-17 that the reason God gave us the scriptures is so that we might be equipped for every good work God has for us.
“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16–17, NIV)
- C. Paul also tells us in Ephesians chapter 4 that the reason God has given us some of the gifts of the Spirit is so that the saints can be equipped for the work of service.
“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11–13, NASB95)

III. The term “equip” means to cause something to be ready for its assigned purpose.

- A. It is used in Greek in the following ways:
 - 1. Broken limbs being healed and made useful again;
 - 2. Fishing nets being mended and thereby able to catch fish (*“Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them”* (Matthew 4:21, NIV);
 - 3. Ships being fitted with ropes and sails and tacked for sea
- B. The English word “equip” comes from the French word “eskipper” or “eschipper” which means to load on board a ship, embark, outfit or to man a boat.

- C. Therefore an equipper is someone who is responsible for making others completely adequate or sufficient for something – to make adequate, to furnish completely, to cause to be fully qualified for something.

IV. God has given specific gifts to specific people for the specific purpose of equipping others to do the work of the ministry.

- A. Many think that Pastors are hired to do the work of the ministry for them.
- B. Ministry is work.
- C. Every believer is to be involved in ministry.
- D. Every believer is to be equipped for ministry.

V. Being equipped for ministry requires being a FAT disciple.

- A. In order to be equipped we must be Faithful.
Paul tells Timothy to entrust what he has been taught to Faithful men who can in turn entrust it to other faithful men. (*“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”* (2 Timothy 2:2, NASB95))
- B. In order to be equipped we must be Available.
“After that He went out and noticed a tax collector named Levi sitting in the tax booth, and He said to him, “Follow Me.” And he left everything behind, and got up and began to follow Him.” (Luke 5:27–28, NASB95)
““My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;” (John 10:27, NASB95)
- C. In order to be equipped we must be Teachable.
“The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.” (Philippians 4:9, NASB95)

VI. The result of being equipped for ministry and serving in ministry is that we build up the body of Christ, we bring unity to the body of Christ, and we become mature in Christ.

- A. A church where the people want to be players rather than spectators will be a church that demonstrates the love of Christ to each other and helps each other become all that God wants for them.
- B. A church where the people want to be players rather than spectators will be a church that is unified around the purpose of growing in Christ likeness.
- C. A church where the people want to be players rather than spectators will be a church where the individual members are becoming more and more spiritually mature and who look like Jesus to the world around them.

VII. Conclusion

- A. Our goal is to equip the members of our church to do the work of the ministry effectively and to grow more and more in Christ likeness.
 - 1. Our desire is to know how we can do this most effectively.
 - 2. Please fill out the response form in your bulletin that will give us feedback on how we can help you grow in Christ likeness and in how to serve more effectively.

- B. Our goal is to help everyone find a place of service within the church.
 - 1. There are many places of service within Hope Fellowship.
 - 2. We will be doing a “Parade of Ministries” in order to spotlight what some of these ministries are and how you can be involved in them.
 - 3. There is a response form in the bulletin for you to indicate any ministries that you would like more information about or that you would be interested in serving within. Some ministries are listed that will not be represented in the “Parade” but they are just as much a part of the life of the church and would welcome your participation.