

IMPLEMENTING CHANGE

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INTRODUCTION

Most Common Barrier to Implementing Discipleship

3 Important Qualifications

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Paul – Romans 7-8

Romans 7: ⁷ What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, **I would not have come to know sin except through the Law**; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “YOU SHALL NOT COVET.”

⁸ **But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; ...**

¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I *would* like to *do*, but I am doing the very thing I hate... ¹⁹ For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.

²² For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, ²³ but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

...²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!... 8: ¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as *an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

MOSES – Deuteronomy

A pattern:

1. Moses reminds the people of God's will in this area.
2. Moses anticipates their fears & possible failure.

HOW DOES HE LEAD THEM AT THIS POINT OF GREAT TENSION that he led them into?

- 3.
- 4.

Practical framework for leading change

1. **“Both men knew what God commanded of them through His revealed word & why it was important to advancing God's kingdom.**
→ Transformational LEADERS first provide the biblical case for discipleship to their church
2. **Both men humbly assessed their own or their peoples' performance & motives according to the Lord's standard, and saw the vast gap between the two.**
→ Transformational leaders point out to their group humbly & clearly
3. **The tension created by the gap between #1 & #2 leads Paul & Moses to turn to God to accomplish this humanly impossible standard through them**
→ Transformational leaders now clearly state: God's will for us is humanly impossible to perform! By His power, we can!
4. **Then both men took or exhorted people to take tangible steps of faith based on God's ability to perform it through them.**
→ LEADERS NOW describe the plan for change - wineskins or structures that facilitate concrete action *and* structures that are pointed at motivating people to live for His Kingdom.

1. **“Both men knew what God commanded of them through His revealed word & why it was important to advancing God's kingdom.** → Transformational LEADERS first develop the biblical case to their church: **“This is what God calls on us to do in this area *and* we are to do it motivated to further *His* Kingdom purpose.”**

a. Importance of taking them to God's perspective on the area needing change

1 Thess 2:13; Heb 4:12

Ajith Fernando: Commentary on Deuteronomy: from “Preaching the Word” commentary series Gen. Ed. Kent Hughes (Crossway, Wheaton, 2012) p. 33 “...when commissioning Moses' successor Joshua, God told Joshua, “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night...For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success” (Josh 1:8)...The path of prosperity and success for Joshua was the path of obedience to the Word of God. It would be so for Joshua's people too.... When will we learn that our great responsibility as leaders is to get our people into the Word? That is what will help them successfully tackle the challenges they face.”

b. What is God's perspective on discipleship? What passages do we draw on?

FIRST

- Perhaps start w/ Jesus' new commandment in Jn. 13:34-35 to love one another. Then note that there are over 20 'one-another' passages in NT letters as the apostles unpacked what that looks like. Do you think you can live that out even in a HG of 20 or so?
- Or, connect them with the Great Commission & then work from there, taking note of the special relationships the apostles had & the commands like Paul's to Tim – 2 Tim. 2:2.
- Or take note of Paul's personal/individual (& strenuous!) efforts to do this in Col. 1:28-29, that it is for "every man" and then note his command that they ALL do this in Col. 3:16!
- Leffel Wedn night; Gary DeLashmutt's workshop; Ben Stuart last night
- 2010 XSI: "The Disciple-Making Church", McCallum, <http://www.xenos.org/teachings/?teaching=925>

Speak to WHAT SHOULD BE their heart motives to do this

2. Both men humbly assessed their own performance and motives against the Lord's standard, and saw the vast gap between the two. → Transformational leaders point out to their group clearly: "Our church is not living this out as God wants us to and I have concerns about whether we are living for advancing His kingdom or ours."

a. What this step looks like: show from outside – inside that there are problems

Use same features of discipleship you just spoke to in how it is being lived out or not in your group.

- *Start with the more obvious external symptoms.* qualification:
- *Be honest about what that likely bodes for the health of the home group.*
- *... & then you need to speak to the possible underlying reasons this area is doing so poorly: Now speaking to what kingdom will people live to advance*

"I can't fit this into my already too busy schedule." "I don't know enough to do this; wouldn't know where to begin!" "I don't want to be open about nor accountable for some areas in my life."

Important note:

...but point out that you know that while they are legitimate concerns, they are not legitimate excuses to not do what the Lord wants us to.

But you must now broach what might be the REAL reasons people don't have time, etc.

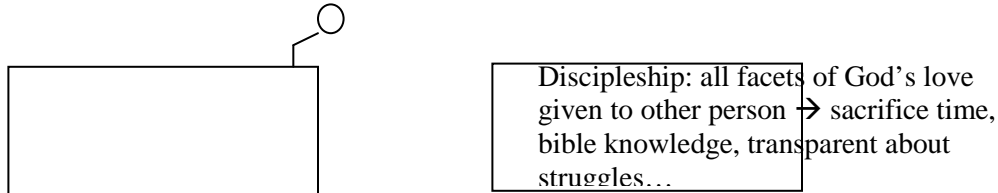
"There is a great temptation in all of us to reduce all that God has taught us and done in us down to the size of the personal concerns of our lives. Yes, it is right to be excited. The work of Christ *will* help you enjoy a better marriage, be a better friend, enjoy better relationships with your children, and do better at work. It is true that if you deal with your heart issues you will make progress in all of these areas. But God has called you to a greater circle of concern than your own life. You see, when God enters our lives by his grace, he isn't working to make our kingdom work so much as he is calling us to an excitement with, and dedication to, a much greater kingdom." (P. D. Tripp, "A Quest for More" (New Growth Press, Greensboro: 2008) p. 44.

"Not enough time!"

"Tone" is key – gracious yet firm

b. Importance of pointing out where the church failing in this area & speaking to underlying reasons

A good visual of what you are trying to communicate (big gap) & what praying they see, too!:



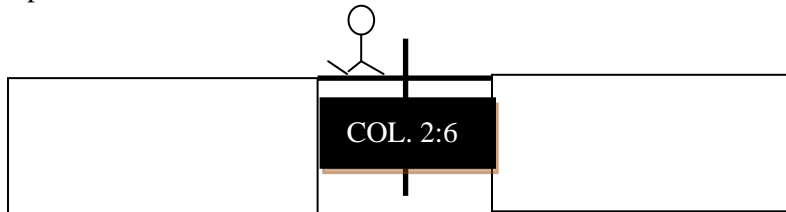
This step, when following the clear vision of God's view of this area, creates tension in heart of a person of sincere faith – someone who truly wants to follow the Lord.

c. We must explicitly tie this step into God's grace

THIS IS WHERE YOU LEAD

3. **The tension created by the gap between #1 & #2 leads Paul & Moses to turn to God to accomplish this humanly impossible standard through them** → Transformational leaders now clearly state: 1) that although God's will for us is humanly impossible to perform. By His power, we can!

We can visually depict this moment like this.



GOD will enable us to work this into our schedules, to have the wisdom to disciple one another, to open up our lives to other people! AND HE WILL TRANSFORM THE HEARTS OF ALL *from* living for self *to* living for His Kingdom purpose comes from HIM! HE DID, CAN & WILL DO THIS, if we trust Him!

What this step looks like:

- You might want to use a simple visual
- Exposit & apply to the situation the promises of His power to give us the energy & motivation to this work (Col. 1:28,29; Phil 2:12-13; Eph 1:18-19)
- Unpack how Paul points Philippians to set their minds on their citizenship in heaven to give them strength & motivation to live for upward call instead of worldly things (Phil. 3:12-21).
- Exposit narratives of how God has worked powerfully when His people take even the smallest steps based on trusting Him.^{1,2}

¹ Use of narrative: “**What do each of these narratives have in common?**”

- Abijah, king of Judah takes 400,000 vs 800,000 (10 tribes of Israel): Judah WINS
- Asa, king of Judah – 580k vs 1million from Ethiopia: Judah WINS
- Asa - ~ 580k vs. 10 tribes Israel - Judah LOSES
- Jehoshaphat, king of Judah – Allies Judah w/ Israel vs. Aram & LOSES?
- Jehoshaphat – later sends out 0 troops vs. ‘great multitude’/3 kingdom alliance & WINS

The final outcome was determined by whether or not they trusted God. Wins – trusted God; losses – didn’t (they either didn’t ask Him for guidance or power *or* if did ask, they didn’t trust Him, therefore didn’t obey the answer).

POINT: GOD will grant victory in every area He promises that He will!! IF we trust Him. We don’t always know how nor when, it may not be in the manner we expect (OFTEN isn’t) – BUT IF HE PROMISES IT & WE ARE FAITHFUL HE WILL ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSE THROUGH US.

v. YOU MUST SPEAK TO MOTIVES and how God changes our heart to live for Him

vi. MUST provide examples of how this ministry has impacted your & others' lives!

What happens if we omit this step → legalism

4. **Then both men took & exhorted people to take tangible steps of faith based on God's ability to perform it through them. → LEADERS NOW** describe the plan for change - wineskins or structures that facilitate concrete action *and* structures that are pointed at motivating people to live for His Kingdom.

You need to come into this meeting with some kind of plan for what this can look like in your home group

NOTE:

- I discourage people who are not in a discipling relationship, to make a decision at this meeting.
- We do NOT tell them who they have to get with.

Our **two** primary considerations in building discipleship relationships are relationship & multiplication:

- In our church, this means IN THEIR OWN HOME CHURCH.
- We encourage who disciples whom based on existing relationships – but same-gender – *and* the plans of the of how the home group will multiply (plant a new one).

Ministry chart

Q/A

² Read carefully through Nehemiah & see how he processes the need to do the monumental task of re-building the wall of Jerusalem in very much the same way – AND leads the people in a similar fashion.