

## Discipleship & Pastoral Ministry

Colossians 1:21-2:5 – What do you learn about the discipleship here?

- The AIM?
- The HOW?

How do we make the Word fully known?

God has given us BOOKS

Often discipleship is based on complex materials, programmes and guides using loads of isolated verses from all over. What are the advantages of reading through books together?

- The Word sets the agenda – you look at things you would never think to cover in an order you'd never design
- The Word is the authority – we both sit under
- Little preparation needed
- Get proper context – less likely to misinterpret/twist
- You don't assume the gospel, don't miss Jesus
- Models individual Bible reading
- Models a simple, repeatable discipleship method

Books all have particular themes, purpose, target. Eg:

- Job – challenging prosperity, moralism, false spirituality, dualism
- Jonah – challenging lack of love for the lost
- Matthew – discipleship – 5 blocks of teaching
- Acts – to give certainty about the gospel events and apostolic witness
- Romans – dealing with boasting and division by reminding of the deep gospel
- 1 Corinthians – dealing with a church in a moral and theological mess, esp. pride
- Ephesians – for those who have come out of the 'protection' of spiritism
- 2 Timothy – how to carry on the gospel baton
- Hebrews – addressing attraction of visible/tangible religion and fixing our eyes back on Jesus
- 1 & 2 Peter – how to grow in grace
- Revelation – challenging those in danger of being seduced by the world and losing first love

Philippians – a great discipleship resource

- Partnership in gospel mission from day one
- Assurance
- To live is Christ to die is gain
- The gift of suffering
- Unity in Christ
- The humble God
- Grumbling
- Gospel not assumed – don't give your life, bin your righteousness
- Eternal, resurrection perspective
- Anxiety
- Contentment

Read through the Gospels with a few key questions:

Matthew

- What do you learn about the King?
- What do you learn about his Kingdom?

Mark (cf. Mk. 8:27-38)

- Who is Jesus?
- Why did he come?
- What does it mean to follow him?

Luke (cf. Lk. 19:10)

- Who is Jesus?
- What are we naturally like?
- How are we saved?
- What fruit comes from being saved?

John (cf. Jn. 20:30-31)

- Who is Jesus?
- How do we have life in him?

Pastoral ministry discussion

Ephesians 4:1-16

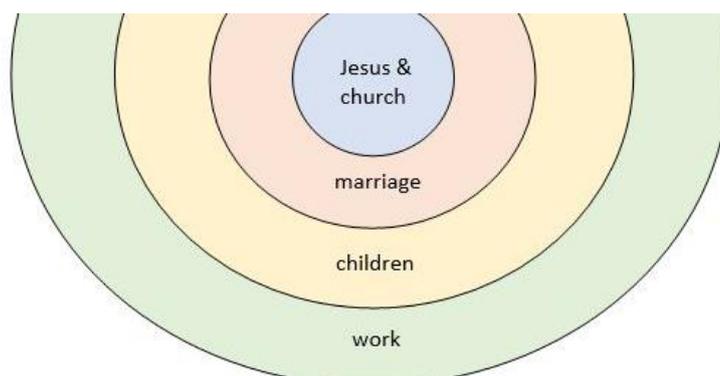
- What questions do we have?
- Who is called? (v1)
- Who should be doing ministry / service? (v12) Is this how we normally think?
- What is the purpose of all the 4 or 5 gifts? (v11-14)
- How are all the 4 or 5 gifts to be connected to Christ?
- How do you feel about pastoral ministry?

What do we think about pastors or missionaries claiming to be called by God?

What might be some of the danger of using this terminology?

- Sacred/secular divide, hierarchy, pride
- Unquestionable, subjective
- Must be obeyed, disobedient to withdraw from pastoral ministry

Where would you place pastoral ministry below? Where would most pastors place it?



How do you know you have a pastoral ministry gift?

1 Timothy 3:1-7

- Desire
- Ability
- Character
- Family
- Respectable in community
- Recognised by the church
- Man? <sup>1</sup>

### Other helpful resources:

- [Christopher Ash, \*How do I know if Preaching is for Me?\*](#)
- [More emphasis on The Call or less?](#)
- [The target diagram \(Jesus, marriage, children, work\)](#)
- Michael Bennett, *Do you feel called by God? Rethinking the call to ministry* – [review by Ben Pfahlert](#)
- Don Carson on God's guidance in his own life – part of a [Q&A session at Clarus 2008](#) – listen especially from 4 min 30 sec
- [Clare Smith, \*God's Good Design: What the Bible Really Says About Men and Women \(Intro\)\*](#)
- [Jean Williams - posts on Women's Ministry](#)

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<sup>1</sup> This is the most controversial criteria. We note that the assumption here is clearly that the leader of the church will be a man. Also in the previous chapter Paul has said that a woman is not to teach or exercise authority over a man within the church and he roots this in the Creation order of Adam and Eve. Furthermore there seems to be a parallel between the family/household (headed by a husband/father) and the church family/household (cf. 1 Tim. 3:4,15). Counter-arguments are made that this is all cultural or related to their specific church context. Certainly we need to assert women's complete equality before God and the importance of women's ministry in the church (e.g. 1 Cor. 11, Titus 2, [Romans 16](#)). But we need to ensure that our final authority is the Scriptures not our culture or experience.