



FCS1-3-05: Discipleship

Having a successful mentor / disciple relationship requires an understanding of what is expected from each other. To further appreciate one another, each should recognize that Christ is in both of them and that all Christians are growing in Him through love. This Godly love, must be evident to effectively invest into this relationship between the both of them and thus doing so, investing into the overall Body of Christ.

Why have a Mentor / Disciple Relationship

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Two are better than one; because they have a **good reward** for their labour. 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him *that is alone when he falleth*; for *he hath* not another to help him up. 11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm *alone*? 12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man **sharpeneth** the countenance of his friend.

1 Timothy 5:1-2 Rebuke not an elder, but intreat *him as a father*; and the younger men as brethren; 2 The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

In the natural trades (construction, electrical, mechanical etc.) when a person wishes to become more effective at their craft, that person seeks out a another that is more accomplished than they are to guide them. Likewise in ministry, a person that wishes to be more effective at a particular part of ministry, seeks out a person that they perceived to be more experienced and well-disciplined and requests that person to mentor (guide) them.

The Mentor: (and their view towards the younger disciples)

After becoming a new creature in Christ, a person is considered to be a babe in Christ (regardless of how old they are physically). This young Christian will greatly benefit from the counsel of a more experienced Christians. Christ placed a very high priority on those that are younger in the faith and in life.

Matthew 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of **the least of these my brethren**, ye have done *it* unto me.

Matthew 10:40-42 He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. 41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of **these little ones** a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

Matthew 18:3-6 & 10 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye **be converted, and become as little children**, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name **receiveth me**. 6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and *that* he were drowned in the depth of the sea.



10 Take heed that ye **despise not one of these little ones**; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

Mentors are not Elders (Pastors)

An Elder is a person that is commissioned by Christ (and through the congregation's governing body) to shepherd (tend, oversee) to the spiritual needs of those under their care. There are very high standards for those that work in the office of the Elder(s) of a congregation.

Though an Elder can still be a mentor to others, the duties of the mentor do not include shepherding a person's soul. The mentor's duties are to aid the disciple in applying the disciplines of the doctrine of Christ within a Biblical perspective; this is the core of discipleship. Teaching the faith; as faith comes by hearing the word of God.

The main responsibility of a mentor is to teach and nurture believers through their growth within the word of God. As previously reviewed in the Effectual Operation of the Body of Christ lesson, the elders have a resource within their ministry: the teacher. The teacher is a person that has the responsibility to promote an environment where the younger disciple may grow in the knowledge of Christ and in His doctrine. Mentors are trained to effectively work with younger believers to aid them in their Christian growth, and the elder is responsible for the young believer's soul. (Not every teacher is a good one-on-one mentor, but everyone that is considered to be a mentor should be good at one-on-one relationships).

Mentors are experienced spiritual examples

A mentor is a person that has proven themselves before their Elders, and their congregation, as a person of Godly integrity that has a pattern of good works coupled with a lifestyle worthy of imitating. A mentor has successfully completed training in the effectiveness of the mentor / disciple relationship. The mentor gives account to their congregation Elders as well as their personal mentors. Every person that desires to grow in Christ should have an active mentor. As a person grows in ministry, they may change or add mentors that will assist them in their calling and spiritual maturity.

There are mentors of basic doctrine and there are mentors within various parts of ministry. As a person grows in Christ, they may find that they have more than one mentor at-a-time. The scope of mentorship should be understood at the beginning of that relationship.

Mentor: (Merriam-Webster.com) 2a. A **trusted counselor** or guide.

The scripture does not use the word mentor, but it does illustrate the modern definition of the mentor's role in Christ. The world uses mentors in business as well as in other professional occupations and disciplines. Within this ministry the role of the mentor is to help the disciple translate their growing knowledge of the scriptures into a more effective Christian lifestyle. (Not every Christian will have a mentor other than their elders). Every Christian that wishes to be at their effective best in the shortest amount of time, should obtain and abide within the spiritually professional relationship with a mentor.

The Disciple: (and their view towards the older and more mature disciples)

Everyone needs and is nourished by encouragement. If an individual had to stand or fall based on their own strength, they all would eventually fall. The disciple draws strength



from the encouragement and admonishment of those that are esteemed to be strong in the faith. To hear affirmation (emotional support or encouragement) from mentor to mentee is worth more than words can describe. The mentor is offering more than knowledge: the mentor is speaking life and growing the courage within to overcome any obstacle the mentee may or will face.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; 13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. *And be at peace among yourselves.*

1 Peter 2:1-3 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

1 Peter 5:5-6 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

FCS1-3-05: The Mentor and Disciple Relationship

Question 1

As described in Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor.

True

False

True/False

Question 2

As described in Proverbs 27:17, the more we sharpen each other knowledge by sharing the word of God the more skillful we will be able to share Gods word.

True

False

True/False

Question 3

As described in 1 Timothy 5:1-2, according to the writer, it does not matter to God how we treat an elder.

True

False

True/False

Question 4

As described in Matthew 25:40: the motivation and intent with which the mentor ministers to the disciple is vital to building the disciple's spirit.

True

False

True/False

Question 5

As described in Matthew 10:40-42, when we receive Jesus in our lives, we will also:

Receive God.

Receive a righteous man.

Receive Belial.

Receive a prophet.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)

Question 6

As described in Matthew 18:3-6, 10, as Jesus was teaching his disciples, what is true?

The little ones will behold the face of my Father in heaven.

Jesus is pleased when we offend his little ones.

We must humble ourselves as a little child.

We must be converted.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)

Question 7

As described in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, we should know them which labor among you and are over you in the Lord.

True

False

True/False

Question 8

As described in 1 Peter 2:1-3, newborn babes will desire the meat of the word.

True

False

True/False

Question 9

As described in 1 Peter 5:5-6, we can conclude that we must:

Have the pride of life.

Be humble

Submit ourselves to the elder.

Cast our cares to Jesus.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)



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