



Becoming a Great Commission Christian

by

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Becoming a Great Commission Christian

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Becoming a Great Commission Christian

Introduction

In Matthew 28:19-20 we have what we call the “Great Commission”. Those verses tell us:

“Going therefore, make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age. Amen.”

In these verses we have one command:

Make Disciples

This command is to be carried out by three participles:

going

baptizing

teaching (them how to obey)

As we are **going**, we are to pray that the Holy Spirit will go before us and prepare the hearts of those with whom we will have contact (John 16:8-11). We also need to pray that the Holy Spirit will give us boldness and opportunities to share the Good News of the death and resurrection of Christ with those who are not Christians (Acts 4:13, 4:29-31). As we share that Good News, we pray that the Lord will open the hearts of those who hear it (Acts 16:14). Those whose hearts the Lord opens need to have repentance and faith clearly explained to them so that they have a true understanding of what it means to follow Christ (Acts 20:21).

There are eight kinds of baptism in the New Testament. All eight have one thing in common. The one thing that all eight have in common is identification. In **baptizing** we help all those who repent and place their faith in the death and resurrection of Christ to understand at least three of those kinds of baptism. The baptism with the Holy Spirit happens at the moment of salvation when Christ gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11, Acts 2:38) and is the down payment and guarantee of our salvation (Ephesians 1:13-14). The baptism of the Holy Spirit also happens at the moment of salvation as the Holy Spirit baptizes us into the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:12-13). The choice to be baptized with water is our response in which we publicly identify ourselves with Christ and His body, the church (Acts 8:35-38, Romans 6:3-6).

The **teaching** them how to obey all that Christ has commanded includes both teaching by example and teaching by word. Paul told the Corinthians in I Corinthians 11:1, “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.” In I Thessalonians 1:6 Paul said, “And you became followers of us and of the Lord...” In I Thessalonians 2:7-12 Paul talked about providing the care of a nursing mother and the example of a godly father. Paul focused on the way that he had trained the elders at Ephesus in Acts 20:20 by pointing out the fact that he took them with him both in his public ministry and in his ministry from house to house. Of course Christ is our key example of showing people how to minister by our own example, when He said in Matthew 4:19, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” It was the example of Christ that taught the disciples how to obey the New Commandment in John 13:34, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”

The Lord also gave us instructions where we are to carry out the Great Commission in Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

The Lord gave us the power to be witnesses to Him by giving us the Holy Spirit. The Lord gave us a progression in our witness so that we could learn to cross one barrier at a time:

our Jerusalem - the barrier of fear of witnessing to people we know - John 1:41-42 (family), John 1:45-46 (friends), Matthew 9:9-10 (co-workers), Mark 1:30-33 (neighbors), II Timothy 1:7

our Judea - the barrier of making contacts with strangers - Matthew 10:5-6

our Samaria - the barrier of another culture, religion or ethnic group - John 4:35, Acts 8:5, 11:19-20

and to the end of the earth - the barrier of language - Acts 14:11-15

Since

The presuppositions will always determine the conclusions

it will help you to know that this material is based on the following presuppositions

All that we do is to be done to the **Glory of God** - I Corinthians 10:31

The command to **Make Disciples** is given to every Christian not just a select few: Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:49, John 20:21, Acts 1:8, I Thessalonians 1:5-10

The **Great Commandment** is for every Christian - Matthew 22:36-40

We are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind; and

We are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves (our neighbor is defined - Luke 10:29-37)

The **New Commandment** is for every Christian - John 13:34-35

We are to love one another as Christ has loved us

The Lord provided the foundation on which we build our lives and ministry - Ephesians 2:20

Christ, Himself is the great foundation stone - Matthew 16:18

The apostles gave us eyewitness testimony of the resurrection - Acts 1:21-22

The prophets gave us the written Word of God - II Peter 1:19-21

The Lord's plan is for every Christian to become one of the **FAT** people with a learner's attitude and a servant's heart:

F Faithful - I Corinthians 4:2

A Available - Isaiah 6:8

T Teachable - John 14:26

A learner's attitude - Who are You, Lord? - Acts 9:5

A servant's heart - Lord, what do you want me to do? - Acts 9:6

The Lord's plan is for every Christian to grow to maturity - Colossians 1:28-29, II Timothy 3:14-17

The Lord's plan is for spiritual leaders to equip every Christian for ministry - Ephesians 4:11-13

Evangelists equip us for evangelism - obedience to the Great Commission

Pastors equip us to minister to one another - obedience to the New Commandment

Teachers equip us to obey the Word of God - obedience to the Great Commandment

These presuppositions also will help us to be clear in:

Why we do what we do

I.

What is our purpose?

**To Glorify God
I Corinthians 10:31**

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

- A. We want to glorify God by being obedient to His Great Commission to: Make Disciples (Develop Healthy Reproducing Christians).**

**A disciple defined:
Matthew 13:52**

“Then He said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.’”

Instructed - has become a disciple

Is like a householder - has become the head of a spiritual household

Has a treasure - the treasure is Christ and the Word

Brings out of the treasure things that are new - is continuing to learn and grow

Brings out of the treasure things that are old - is able to teach the basics of Christianity

- B. We want to glorify God by being obedient to His Great Commission to: do this among all ethnic groups (Plant Godly Reproducing Churches)**

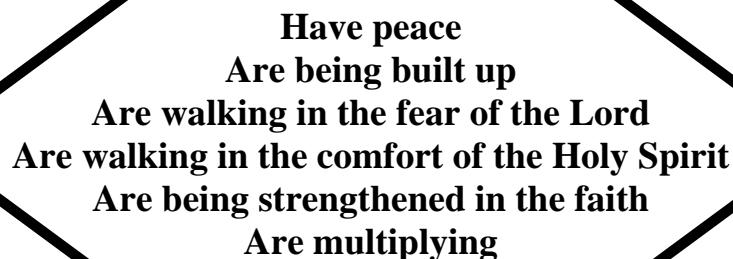
**Healthy churches multiply
Acts 9:31**

“Then the churches throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit they were multiplied.”

Acts 16:5

“So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.”

Healthy Churches



**Have peace
Are being built up
Are walking in the fear of the Lord
Are walking in the comfort of the Holy Spirit
Are being strengthened in the faith
Are multiplying**

A. Developing Healthy Reproducing Christians

Basics for helping Christians grow to maturity

Exodus 18:20

“And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.”

Teach them the Word of God

We must have clearly in mind what we want each Christian to know and understand of the things of God.

Growth in knowledge

Show them the way to walk

We must have clearly in mind what we want each Christian to become

Growth in character and attitude

Show them the work to do

We must have clearly in mind what we want each Christian to learn to do and a workable plan to help each one accomplish it

Growth in ministry

Paul's 20/20 plan for developing spiritual maturity

Acts 20:20

“*And* how I kept back nothing that was profitable *unto you*, but have shown you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house.”

Teach all that is profitable -II Timothy 3:16-17

Teach by your own example - I Timothy 4:12

Teach publicly - Acts 17:17

Teach from house to house - Acts 2:46

Results of Spiritual Birth

The profile of a spiritual newborn babe

1. His attitude is repentance toward God - Acts 20:21
2. His attitude shows faith in our Lord Jesus Christ - Acts 20:21
3. He gives evidence of possessing new life - II Corinthians 5:17

The profile of a spiritual toddler

A spiritual toddler is a person who became a Christian and started to grow but then stopped growing and continues to show the following characteristics:

1. He acts like one who is not a Christian - I Corinthians 3:1
2. He is not able to understand difficult teachings from the Word - I Corinthians 3:2
3. He experiences envying, strife and divisions - I Corinthians 3:3
4. His talk, understanding and thinking of spiritual things is limited - I Corinthians 13:11
5. He is tossed to and fro by every false teaching - Ephesians 4:14
6. He is easily deceived by false teachers - Ephesians 4:14
7. He is dull of hearing to spiritual truth - Hebrews 5:11
8. He needs to be retaught the basics of Christianity - Hebrews 5:12
9. He is unskillful in the word of righteousness - Hebrews 5:13
10. His senses are not developed to recognize good and evil - Hebrews 5:14

Growing from Spiritual Birth to a Spiritual Child

Objectives for the development of a spiritual newborn babe or a spiritual toddler to help him become a spiritual child

Objectives for development include:

**Growth in character and attitude
Growth in knowledge
Growth in ministry**

Growth in Character and Attitude

Goal: a transformed spirit - Romans 6

learn to live by faith

learn to walk in the Spirit

learn to submit to the righteousness of God

Growth in Knowledge

Goal: a transformed mind, emotion and will - Romans 12:1-2

growth in the Word through:

hearing - Romans 10:17

reading - Revelation 1:3

studying - Acts 17:11

memorizing - Psalm 119:9, 11

meditating - Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3

growth in experiencing the love of God - I John 4:10-11

through fellowship with God - I John 1:3-7

through fellowship with other believers - John 13:34-35, Hebrews 10:24-25

growth in submission to the will of God - Matthew 26:39

Growth in Ministry

Goal: a transformed relationship with others

to God

love - I John 4:10, 19

obedience - John 14:15, Matthew 7:24-27

to one another - this requires learning how to practice the one anothers of Scripture in our relationship to each other - John 13:34-35

there are 31 positive one anothers

there are 12 negative one anothers

to the world - this requires learning how to practice the three phases of evangelistic ministry - Luke 15:3-7

seeking - making contacts

finding - sharing the Gospel and leading a person to Christ

bringing - basic follow-up

The profile of a spiritual child

A spiritual child is one who is growing in the same way that Christ grew as a child - Luke 2:40-51

1. He is becoming strong in spirit - Luke 2:40
development of godly character and attitudes - Galatians 5:16, 22-23
2. He is increasing in godly wisdom - Luke 2:40, James 3:17
3. He is growing in grace - Luke 2:40, II Peter 3:18
this is reproduction, by the indwelling Holy Spirit, of the graciousness of God in the life and service of the believer (Christian growth)
4. He has the attitude of a learner - Luke 2:46
5. He is growing in ministry - Luke 2:47
6. He is growing in fellowship with the Father - Luke 2:49
7. He is growing in his application of submission - Luke 2:51
8. He is developing a proper family relationship - Luke 2:51

Godly Character and Attitude plus Growing Bible Knowledge and Application results in Growing Ministry

Growing from a Spiritual Child to a Spiritual Young Man

Objectives for the development of a spiritual child to help him become a spiritual young man

Growth in Character and Attitude

Goal: continuing growth in depth of character and attitude

has a good reputation - Acts 16:2, Acts 6:4

is filled with the Spirit as a basic pattern of life - Ephesians 5:18, Acts 6:4

is an example for others - I Timothy 4:11

is filled with wisdom - Acts 6:4

has the attitude of a servant - Mark 10:42-45

Growth in Knowledge

Goal: continuing growth in knowledge and application of the Word

is becoming familiar with the entire Word of God - II Timothy 3:14-17

effective meditation has become a basic part of life - Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3

has a clear commitment to the doctrines of the Word of God - I Timothy 4:16

Growth in Ministry

Goal: development of an effective and balanced ministry

an effective ministry of submission to spiritual leaders - Titus 2:4-8, I Peter 5:5-6

an effective ministry in the home, if married - Ephesians 5:18-6:4

an effective ministry of service to the body - Acts 16:1-2

an effective ministry of evangelism to the lost - Acts 8:4, Acts 11:19-21

The profile of a spiritual young man

1. He is strong in spirit - I John 2:14, Ephesians 3:16-19
2. He has the Word of God abiding in him - I John 2:14
this includes knowledge of the whole Word of God - Acts 20:20, 27
this includes effective meditation - Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3
3. He has overcome the wicked one - I John 2:14
he practices separation from sin - I John 2:15-17
he practices separation from false teaching - I John 2:18-27
4. He is continuing to experience balanced growth and development - Luke 2:52
growth in wisdom
growth in spiritual as well as physical stature
growth in favor with God
growth in favor with man
5. He is an example to other Christians - I John 4:11
6. He has an effective ministry - Acts 16:1-2

Growing from a Spiritual Young Man to a Spiritual Parent

Objectives for the development of a spiritual young man to help him become a spiritual parent

Growth in Character and Attitude

Goal: to develop the attitude which Christ had in Philippians 2:5-8
an attitude which produces true care for spiritual children - I Thessalonians 2:7-12,
I Corinthians 4:15-17
an attitude of commitment to one or more Timothy's - II Timothy 2:1-2
a proper attitude toward becoming a spiritual leader - I Corinthians 9:19-27,
I Timothy 3:1

Growth in Knowledge

Goal: to desire to know Christ in the way that Paul desired to know Him in Philippians 3:7-14
advanced in the knowledge of God - I John 2:13
(know the God of the Word as well as the Word of God)
able to answer false teachers from the Word of God - Titus 1:9

Growth in Ministry

Goal: to become an effective spiritual parent who can reproduce himself in the lives of others
has an effective ministry in helping the spiritual development of his own family -
Ephesians 6:4, I Timothy 3:4-5
has an effective ministry in helping new Christians grow - I Thessalonians 2:7-12
ministers with a servant's heart - Mark 10:42-45
is an example of faithfulness - I Corinthians 4:2

The profile of a spiritual parent

1. He is advanced in his knowledge of God - I John 2:13
2. He demonstrates true care for his spiritual children - I Thessalonians 2:7-12
3. He has one or a few Timothy's that he is bringing to spiritual maturity - II Timothy 2:1-2, I Corinthians 4:15-17
4. He has become a mature disciple - Matthew 13:52
he is instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven
he is the head of a spiritual household
he has a treasure (the Word of God) - Psalm 119:11
he shares from his treasure things that are new (he is continuing to study the Word of God so that his growth continues)
he shares from his treasure things that are old (he is able to help his spiritual children understand the basic teachings of the Word of God)
5. He is spiritually mature and has become like His teacher - Luke 6:40

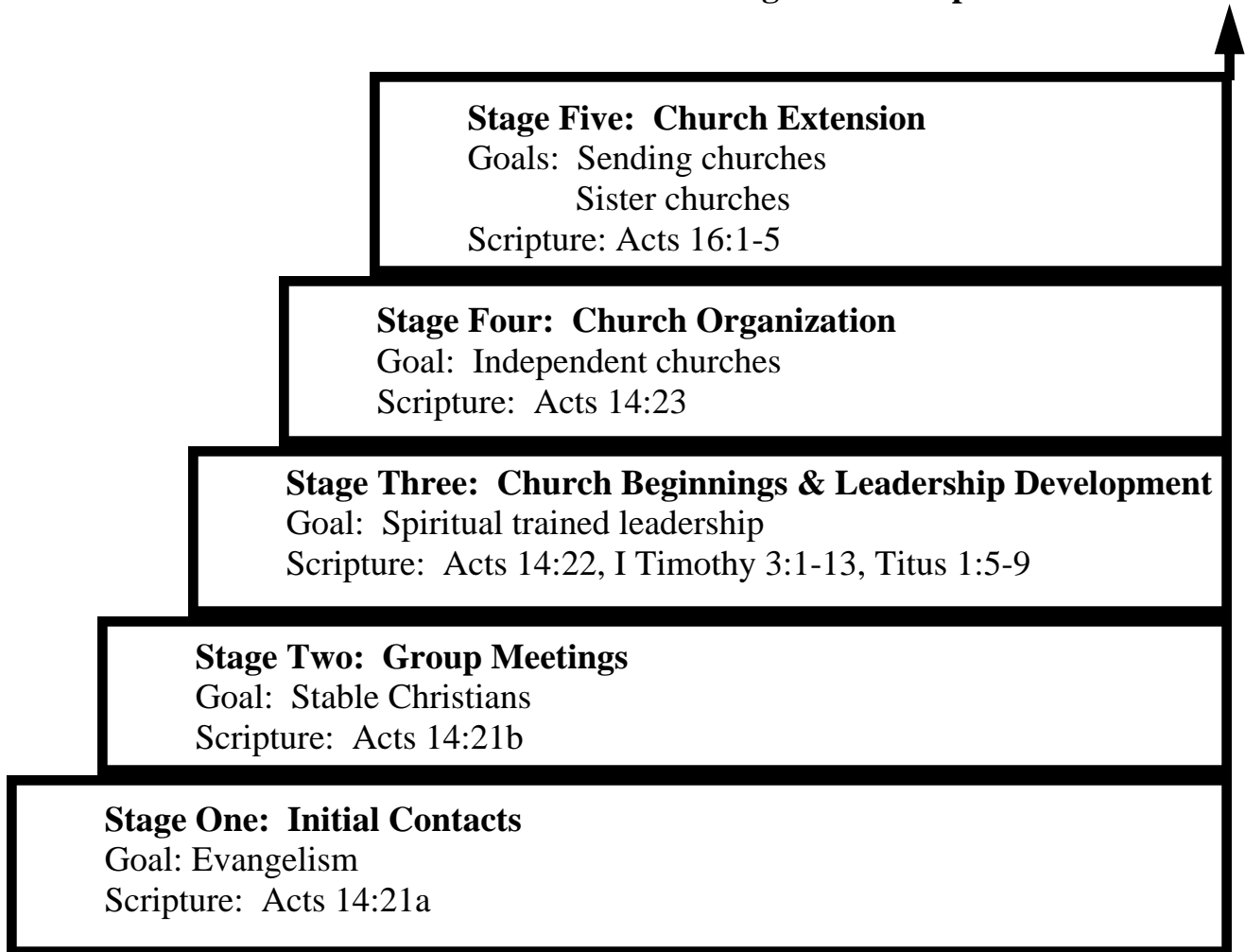
Am I growing in my level of spiritual maturity?

If I am a:	I am able to:	My spiritual leadership:
Newborn babe	Evangelize	Will quickly bring division to a group if given a position of spiritual leadership
Spiritual toddler	Evangelize	Will quickly bring division to a group if given a position of spiritual leadership
Spiritual child	Evangelize, do follow-up and teach	Able to lead an unstable group for a period of time. Can cause a stable work to become unstable.
Spiritual young man	Evangelize, do follow-up, teach and equip	Able to lead a stable group and help it mature
Spiritual parent	All of the above plus develop godly leaders	Able to produce a stable growing group with godly leadership
Spiritual parent with Timothys	All of the above plus train leaders who can develop other godly leaders	Able to produce a stable growing group with godly leaders who are also developing godly leaders
Spiritual parent with Timothys who teach faithful men (see II Timothy 2:2)	All of the above plus develop godly leaders who can start new ministries	Able to produce a stable growing group that is sending out leaders to start new ministries
Spiritual parent with Timothys who equip faithful men to teach others also	All of the above plus developing godly leaders for reproducing ministries	Able to develop reproducing ministries that are producing godly leaders and reproducing themselves

The above list shows the critical importance of continuing to grow in our spiritual maturity if we want to see the Lord use our lives to make a growing impact!

B. Biblical Church Development

Each church in Acts had these five stages of development



As each new stage develops, the previous stages must continue for a church to remain healthy!

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
Jerusalem	Acts 2:1-41	2:42-47	3:1-5:42	6:1-8	8:4, 14, 11:22
Antioch	Acts 11:19-21	11:22-25	11:26	13:1	13:2-4
Galatia	Acts 14:21a	14:21b	14:22	14:23	16:1-5
Corinth	Acts 18:1-6	18:7-8	18:9-11	18:12-18a	18:18b-19
Ephesus	Acts 18:24-19:7	19:8-9	19:10	19:11-21	19:22, 20:4

Understanding what begins to happen at the early stages of development

Stage One Initial Contacts

Acts 14:21a

“And when they had preached the gospel to that city...”

Common things which we do during this stage

We make direct contacts

John 1:43, Acts 16:12-13, 16:24-30

We make contacts through contacts:

**with family - John 1:41-42
with friends - John 1:45-46
with co-workers - Matthew 9:9-10
with neighbors - Mark 1:30-33**

We build relationships:

**by spending time together - John 1:39, John 2:1-12
through shared meals - Matthew 9:10
through meeting needs - Mark 1:30-31, John 4:10
through questions and discussions - John 3:1-21
through common backgrounds - Acts 18:1-3**

We share the Gospel:

**in homes - Acts 2:46, Acts 18:1-3
in places where people gather - Acts 16:13
in their religious places - Acts 6:9, Acts 17:22-23
in the marketplace - Acts 17:17
where people are searching - Acts 17:11-12
in jails - Acts 16:24-30
during times of crisis - Acts 28:1-6
where we are staying or living - Acts 28:23, 30-31
in every available place - Acts 19:9-10**

**Stage Two
Group Meetings
Acts 14:21b**

“and made many disciples...”

**We build spiritual parenting relationships
I Thessalonians 2:7-12**

“But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing *mother* cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. You *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father *does* his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

**Spiritual parents cherish their spiritual children
Spiritual parents share their lives with their spiritual children
Spiritual parents are available night and day to spiritual children
Spiritual parents provide a godly example to spiritual children
Spiritual parents encourage their spiritual children
Spiritual parents help spiritual children develop a worthy walk**

**We develop spiritual family relationships
Acts 2:42, 46-47**

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers...So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

Common activities in spiritual families (Bible studies)

**Bible Study and Fellowship
Communion
Prayer
Sharing meals
Praise to God
Building relationships with people**

II.

What is our motivation?

A. Why many Christians minister out of fear

1. We are experiencing the results of Adam's fall - Genesis 3:10

“So he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.’”

2. We depend on self instead of the Holy Spirit - II Timothy 1:7

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

3. We try to cross too many barriers at one time - Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

4. We have not had examples to follow - I Corinthians 11:1

“Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”

B. How we can learn to minister out of love

1. We begin to move from fear to love - I John 4:18

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

2. We begin to be motivated by the love of Christ - II Corinthians 5:14-15

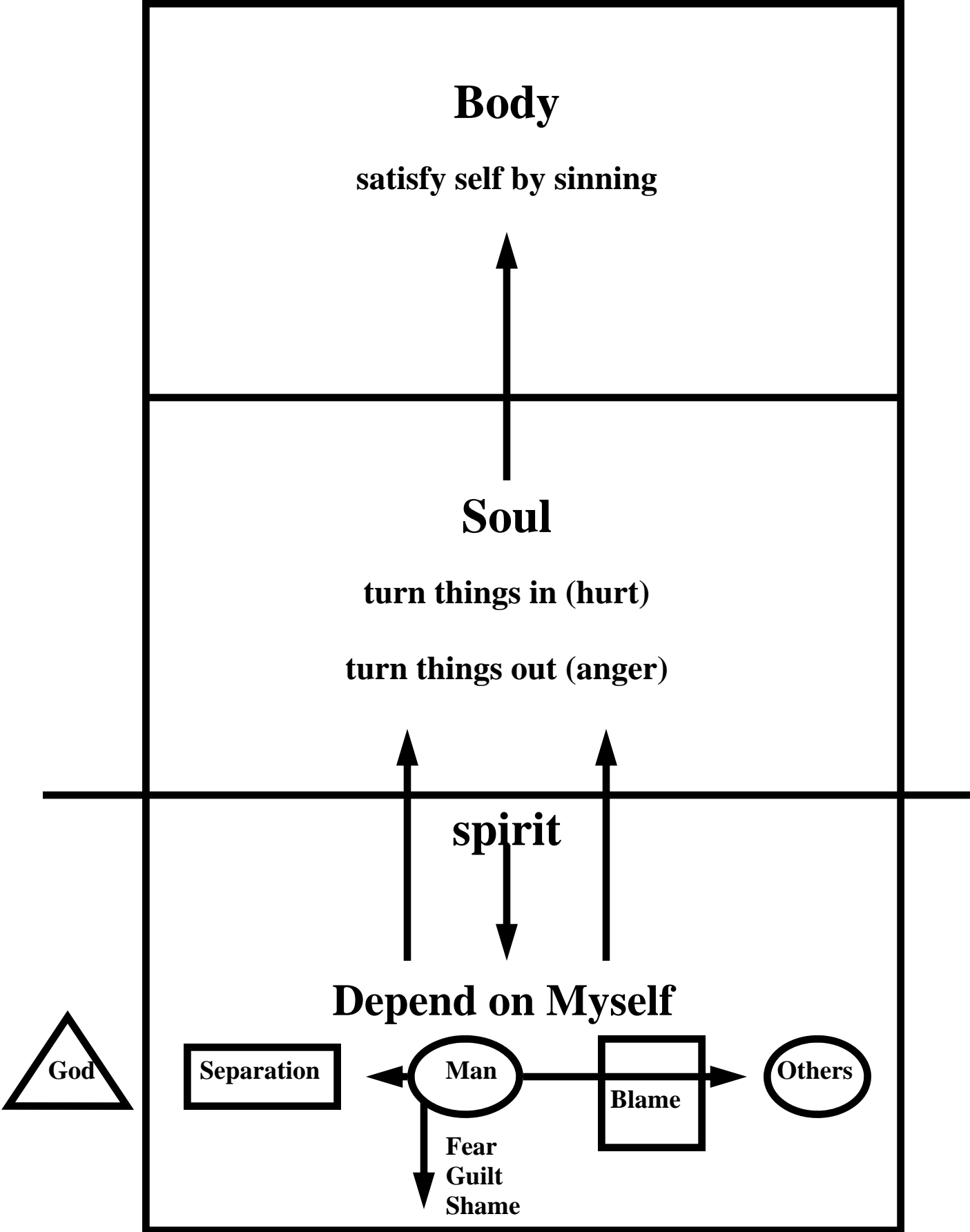
“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again.”

3. We begin to live for Christ instead of ourselves - Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Either fear motivates us
or
The love of Christ motivates us.

The Consequences of Sin - Genesis 3:7-13



Why many Christians minister out of fear

They depend on self instead of the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

In sharing the Gospel, we may have to cross one or more barriers:

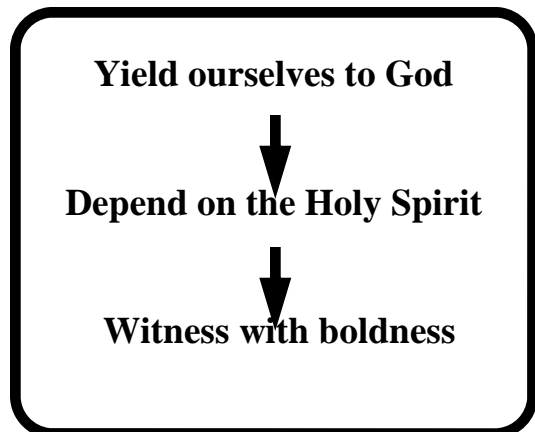
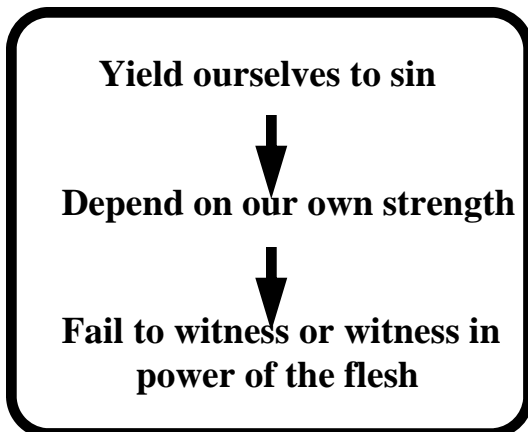
Jerusalem	the barriers of our own fear
Judea	the barrier of making contacts
Samaria	the barrier of another culture, religion or ethnic group
uttermost	the barrier of another language

Learning to cross the barrier of our own fear

Romans 6:13, 16

“And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God... Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?”

Our Choice

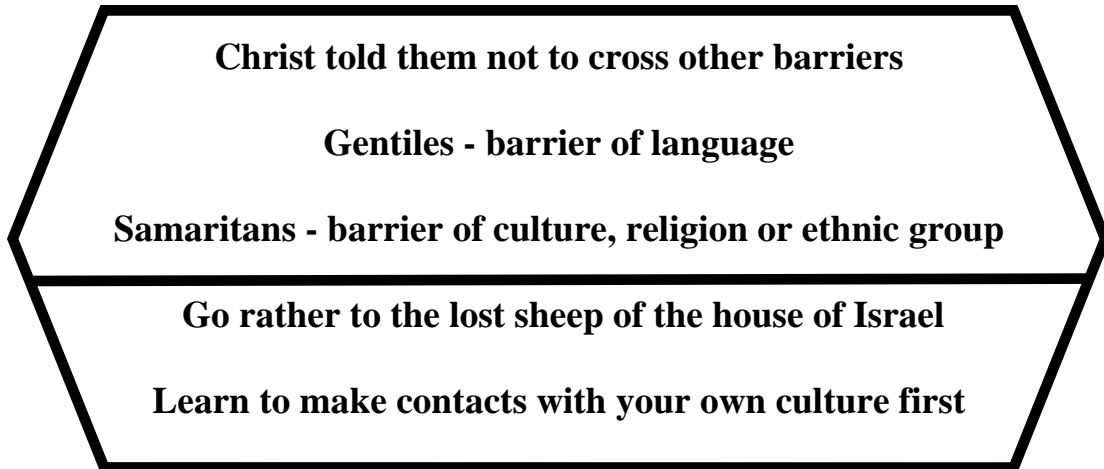


They try to cross too many barriers at one time

Matthew 10:5-7

“These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: ‘Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

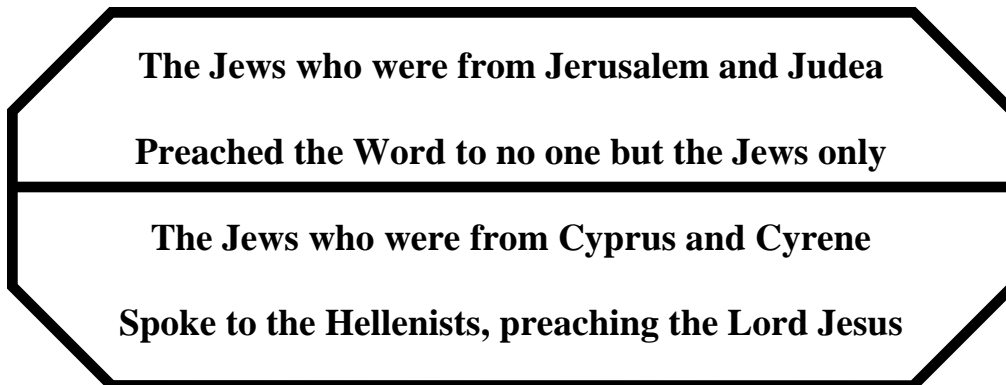
Christ sent the twelve out to make new contacts



Acts 11:19-21

“Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.”

The natural way to learn to make contacts is with your own culture first



We should encourage people to learn to cross one barrier at a time!

They have not seen examples that they can follow

Crossing the barrier of another culture should be modeled by leaders

Acts 8:4-5, 14

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them... Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.”

Philip was one of the seven chosen in Acts 6

Peter and John were two of the apostles

Learning to understand another religion should be modeled by leaders

Acts 17:22-23

“Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, ‘Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you.’”

Paul observed the religious nature of the people

Paul observed the objects that the people worshiped

Paul used their religion as a bridge to share the Gospel

Learning to accept another ethnic group should be modeled by the leaders

Galatians 2:11-14

“Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before *them* all, ‘If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?’”

**Peter had to be rebuked by Paul for acting out of fear
Peter had set a poor example for Barnabas and the others**

They have not seen others cross the language barrier

Crossing the barrier of another language should be modeled by leaders

Acts 14:11-17

“Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian *language*, ‘The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!’ And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out and saying, ‘Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.’”

Paul and Barnabas had preached to the Jews in that area

Paul and Barnabas had looked for ways to reach out to the Gentiles

Paul and Barnabas had shown kindness to a crippled man

Paul and Barnabas did not understand the language of the Lycaonians

Paul and Barnabas observed the actions of the people

Paul and Barnabas used actions to communicate thoughts

Paul and Barnabas looked for some who had partial understanding

Paul and Barnabas began their message by going back to the Creator

Paul and Barnabas pointed out that the nations followed their own ways

Paul and Barnabas moved from the Creator to His creation

Paul and Barnabas showed that God did good even to the ignorant

How we can learn to minister in love

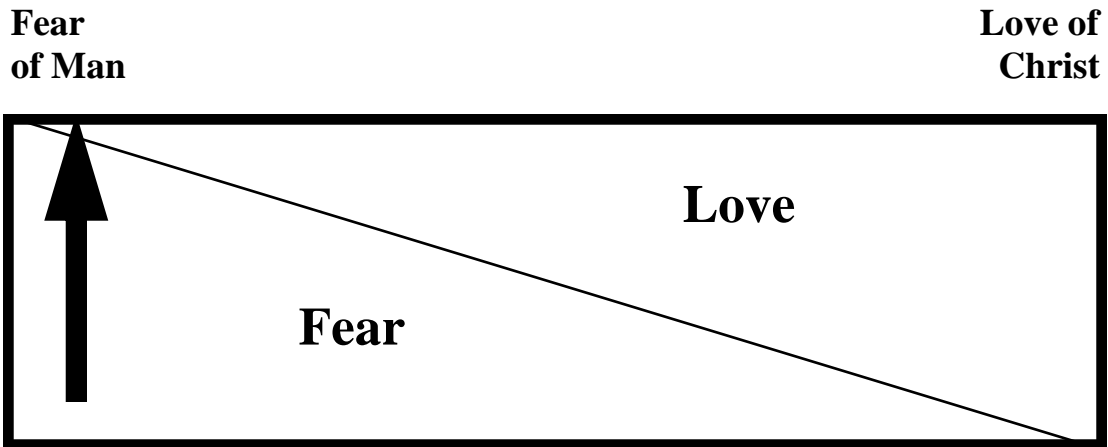
Because of sin, we immediately began to move toward fear at birth
Birth



I John 4:18

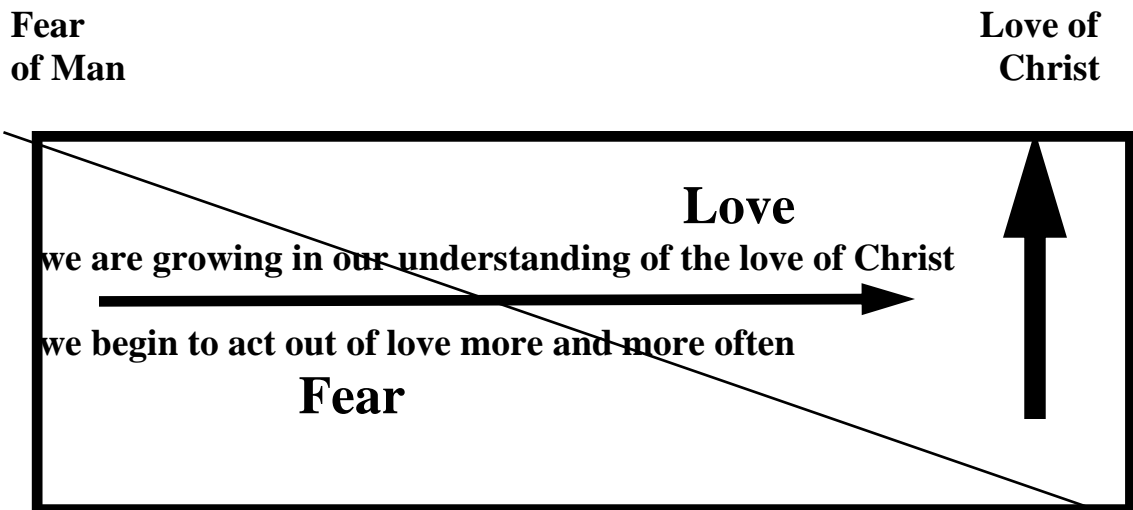
“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

Because of sin, fear instead of love became what motivates people
Hebrews 2:14-15



Because Christ paid for sin, as our understanding of the love of Christ grows, we see that His love for us becomes the thing that motivates us more and more.

II Corinthians 5:14-15



**The more we act out of love instead of fear,
the greater the inner peace we experience**

Understanding how godly love casts out fear

We respond to God's love for us

I John 4:18-19

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us. (NKJV)

We begin to understand God's forgiveness of our sins as we mature

I John 2:12

"I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake."

We confess our sins so that we experience daily cleansing

I John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

We take root in Christ instead of our own strength

Colossians 2:6-7

"As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."

We grow and become rooted and grounded in love

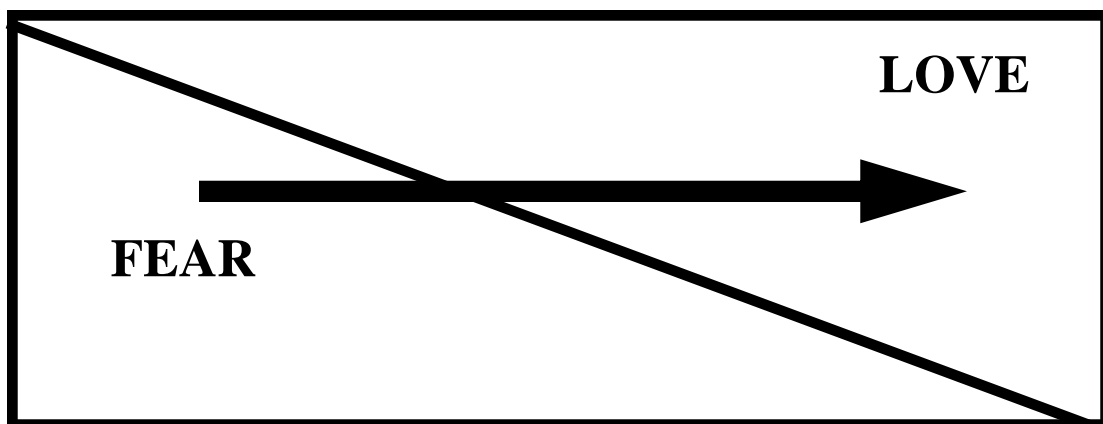
Ephesians 3:16-19

"That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height -- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

We experience growing love and decreasing fear

**Fear
of Man**

**Love of
Christ**



Helping a developing group take root in the love of Christ

The group will take root in the love of Christ as they:

Yield to God

Romans 6:13,16

“And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?”

Walk in the Spirit

Galatians 5:16

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

Are led by the Spirit

Galatians 5:18

“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”

Live in the Spirit

Galatians 5:25

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (NKJV)

The group will take root in the love of Christ as they:

Get together

Encourage one another

Hebrews 10:24-25

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

The group will take root in the love of Christ as they:

Focus on Bible study

Focus on fellowship

Focus on the breaking of bread

Focus on prayer

Acts 2:42

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

Taking root in the love of Christ is the result of the group:

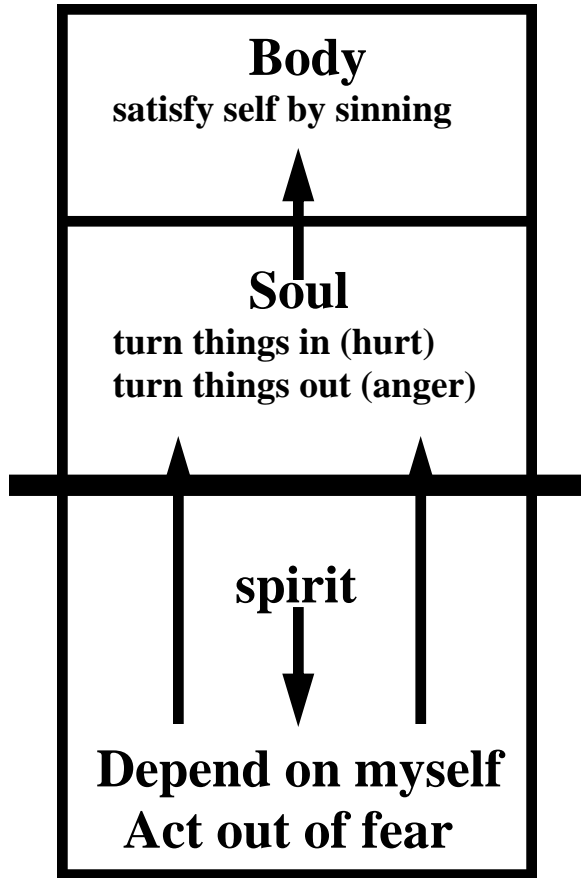
Learning to yield to the Spirit

Learning to grow in their relationship to God and each other

Understanding why we can act in love when we yield to God

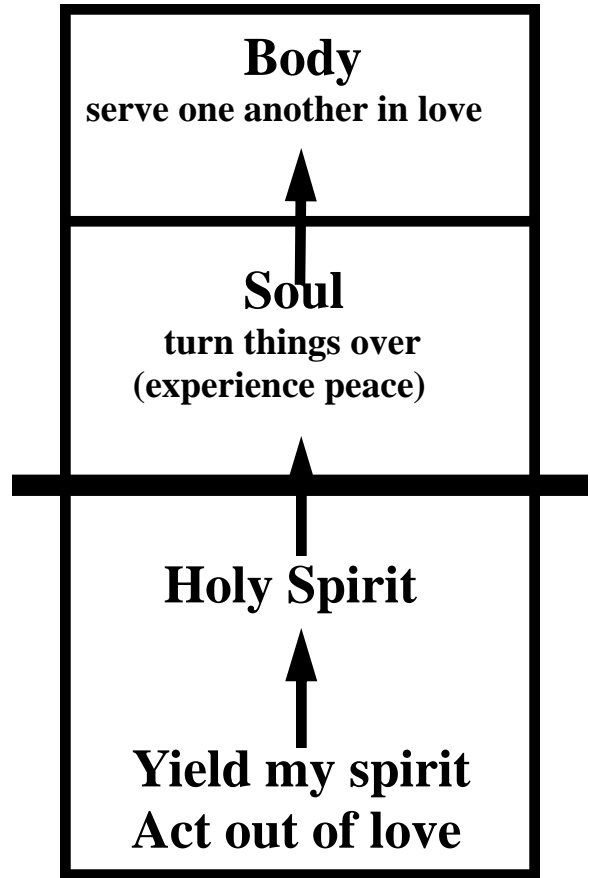
**We will act out of fear when we depend on our own strength
We will act out of love when we yield ourselves to God**

Romans 7:14-25



Yield ourselves to sin

Romans 8:1-39



Yield ourselves to God

Our Choice

Motivated by fear
Genesis 3:7-13

Motivated by love
II Corinthians 5:14-17

I John 4:18

Romans 6:6, 11, 13, 16

Ephesians 4:29-32

Romans 12:17-21

Most people probably face 200 to 500 or more choices every day

Help new Christians begin to move from fear toward love

Once the first person becomes a Christian, we are ready to begin the second stage of Biblical Church Development. In this stage we want to help the new Christian and others who will become Christians develop their relationship with God, with us and with other Christians. As we spend time one-to-one and in small groups we create opportunities to act as spiritual parents to help new Christians develop.

I John 1:3-7

“That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

We want the new Christian to learn to have fellowship with us

We want the new Christian to learn to have fellowship with God

We want the new Christian to learn to have fellowship with other Christians

Fellowship develops best in the context of group Bible study and fellowship

The early church focused on four things to help new Christians develop

Acts 2:42

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

**Bible study (apostles' doctrine)
Fellowship (sharing Bible study together)
Communion (breaking of bread)
Prayer (fellowship with God)**

The early church did these things both in the temple and in homes

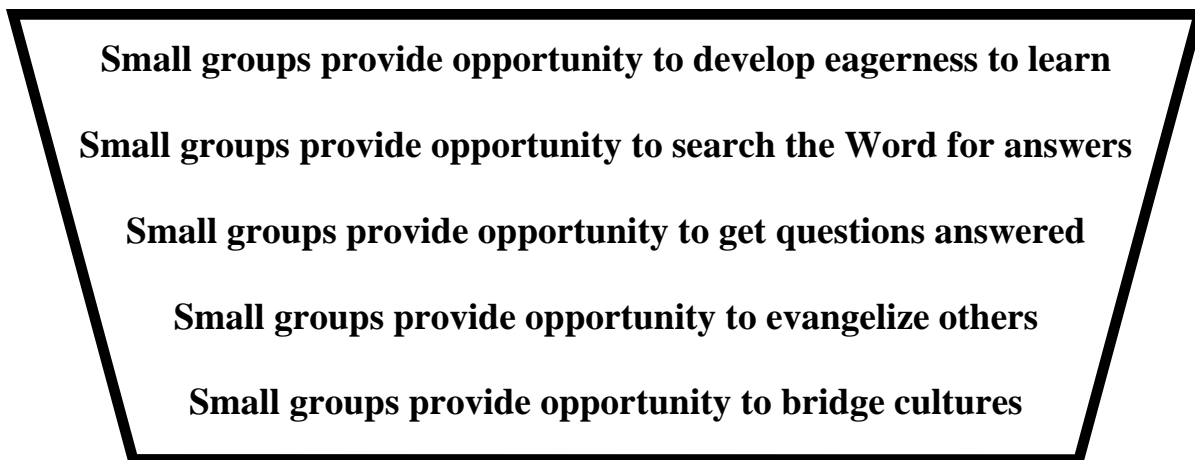
Acts 2:46

“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart.”

Small group meetings provide opportunities to help people to move toward love

Acts 17:11-12

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.”

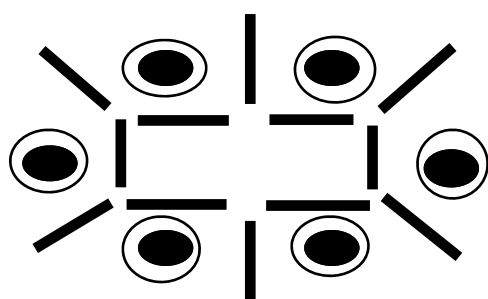


Small group meetings provide opportunity to develop healthy relationships

I John 4:18

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

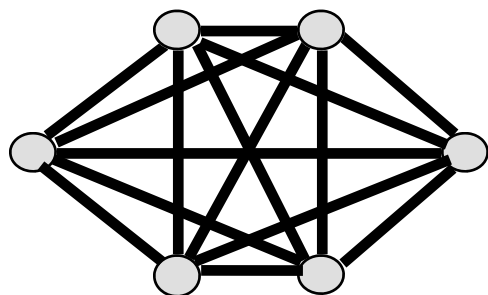
Fear Based Relationships



Fear Relationships

relationships are controlled by fear
people erect barriers with others
people create a shell to protect their feelings
there is a lack of trust
there is a breakdown of communication

Love Based Relationships



Healthy Relationships

relationships are controlled by love
barriers have been replaced by acceptance
shells have been replaced by openness
trust is a characteristic of relationships
communication is direct

III.

Where do we start?

A. Four C's for evangelism

1. Confrontation - John 3:3

“Jesus answered and said to him, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

2. Clarification - Acts 17:11-12a

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed...”

3. Compassion - John 4:7

“A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’”

4. Creation - Acts 17:23-24

“For as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you. God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.”

B. Building relationships for evangelism

1. Prepare for relationships through prayer - Acts 3:1-2

“Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask for alms from those who entered the temple.”

2. Be led by love to contacts - Acts 8:29-30a

“Then the Spirit said to Philip, Go near and overtake this chariot. So Philip ran to him and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, Do you understand what you are reading?”

3. Build relationships through relationships - Matthew 9:9-10

“As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, Follow Me. So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.”

We start by yielding to the Lord so that the power of the Holy Spirit is working in us and the love of Christ is flowing through us!

Some need confrontation

These individuals are church attendees who are depending on their own efforts

Using confrontation to share the Gospel

**Illustrated with Nicodemus - John 3:1-21
(he had depended on religious involvement)**

Confront with Scripture - John 3:14-15
Confront with love - John 3:16-17
Confront by pointing out choices and consequences - 3:16-21

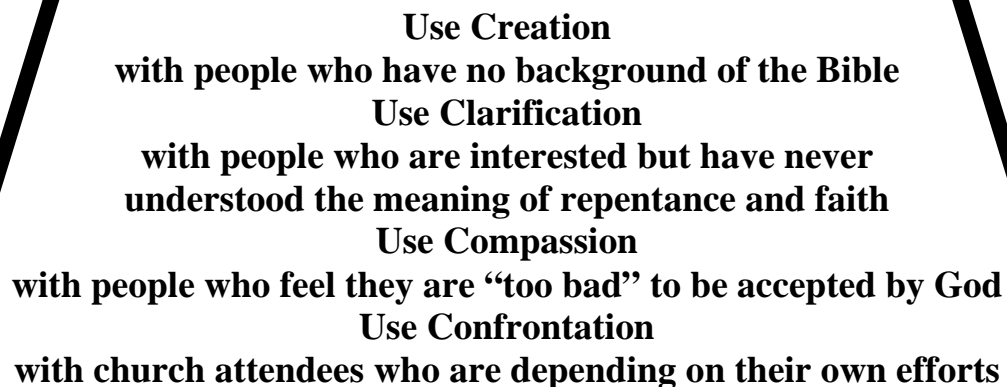
**Illustrated by the rich young ruler -
Mark 10:17-22, Matthew 19:16-26, Luke 18:18-27**

Confront with Scripture - Luke 18:19
Confront with love - Luke 18:21
Confront by pointing out choices and consequences - Luke 18:21

Confrontation

is necessary when we are talking to church attendees who are depending on their religious involvement or their own good works
was used by Christ primarily with religious leaders like the scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees
was used by Christ with those who were depending on their own efforts to be right with God by trying to keep the law

Knowing what approach to use



Use Creation
with people who have no background of the Bible
Use Clarification
with people who are interested but have never understood the meaning of repentance and faith
Use Compassion
with people who feel they are “too bad” to be accepted by God
Use Confrontation
with church attendees who are depending on their own efforts

Some need clarification

These are interested church attendees who have never understood the meaning of repentance and faith -Acts 20:21, I Thessalonians 1:9-10

Using clarification to share the Gospel

Illustrated by Philip in Acts 8:26-40

Listen to find out what the person understands - 8:30-31

Be available to explain what is not clear - 8:31

Use the Scripture - 8:32-34

Listen to see what the person does not understand - 8:34

Focus on Christ and what He has done - 8:35

Make certain the person clearly understands - 8:36-37

Illustrated by Paul in Acts 17:11-12

Share the Word of God

Encourage people to study the Word for themselves

Take time to study the Scriptures with them

Both speak and listen

Illustrated by Aquila and Priscilla in Acts 18:24-26

They invited Apollos to their home

They explained the Gospel more clearly

Applied to our own lives

Explain the Word of God - Acts 17:11, 18:26

Encourage group Bible study - Acts 17:11

Take time to study with them - Acts 17:11, 18:26

Listen to the things they understand - Acts 8:30-31

Listen to the things they do not understand - Acts 8:34

Focus on Christ and what He has done - Acts 8:35

Use your home for personal one-to-one studies - Acts 18:26

Some need compassion
These individuals feel I am “too bad” to be accepted by God

Using compassion to share the Gospel

Illustrated with Matthew - Matthew 9:9-13
(he had rejected the acceptable standards of culture and religion)

Go to people where they live, work and spend their free time - 9:9-10
Accept people as they are and invite them to follow Christ - 9:9
Eat meals with those who need compassion - 9:10
Accept the friends of those with whom you come in contact - 9:10
Accept criticism from the religious - 9:11
Choose to show mercy - 9:12

Illustrated with the Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-24
(he had lived a wild life)

Accept the right of people to make wrong choices - 15:12
Have compassion and show it - 15:20
Accept people as they are - 15:20
Forgive (let go) of the sins of people - 15:21
Explain how Christ makes us worthy - 15:21, II Timothy 2:21
Explain how God accepted the righteousness of Christ - 15:22, II Cor. 5:21
Explain how Christ accepts us as sons - 15:22, 24, John 1:12
Celebrate the salvation of new Christians - 15:6-7, 9-10, 23-24

Illustrated with the Samaritan woman - John 4:1-42
(she had grown up in a different religion and culture and had lived a sinful life)

Accept people as they are - 4:7
Accept rejection and distrust - 4:9-10
Develop curiosity - 4:10
Offer everlasting life - 4:14
Don't get sidetracked by questions about religion - 4:19-21
Focus on the meaning of true worship - 4:22-24
Introduce people to Christ - 4:25-26
Use the opportunity to train those with you - 4:31-38
Focus on reaching the extended family and community - 4:39-42

Some need to begin at creation
These are the people who have no background of the Bible

Using Creation to share the Gospel

Illustrated by the people of Athens - Acts 17:16-34

Characteristics of the people of Athens

the people were given to idol worship - verse 16
the people gathered daily in the marketplace - verse 17
the people had no understanding of Paul's message - verse 18
the people wanted to learn about Paul's message - verse 19-20
the people enjoyed empty talk - verse 21
the people were very religious - verse 22
the people did not know what they worshiped - verse 23
the people either mocked or questioned - verse 32

Paul's approach to the people of Athens

Paul met them where they spent time - verse 17
Paul took time to listen to them - verses 18-21
Paul observed and tried to understand their worship - verses 22-23
Paul began at creation - verse 24
Paul focused on the Creator - verses 25-26
Paul showed that no man seeks God - verse 27
Paul used illustrations from their own poets - verse 28
Paul focused on the Godhead - verse 29
Paul focused on the message of repentance - verse 30
Paul focused on judgment for sin - verse 31
Paul focused on the resurrection of Christ - verse 32
Paul gave them time to think - verses 32-33
Paul spent time with those who accepted his message - verse 34

Applied to our own lives

We need to listen and understand their background - James 1:19-20
We may need to begin evangelistic Bible studies with Genesis 1-12
We need to focus on the death and resurrection - I Cor. 15:3-6
We need to focus on repentance and faith - Acts 20:21

Prepare for relationships through prayer

Pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers

Matthew 9:37-38

“Then He said to His disciples, The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

Pray that the Holy Spirit will prepare the hearts of future contacts

John 16:8-11

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

Pray that the Lord will lead you to people who are searching for God

Acts 17:11

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”

Pray that the Lord would open a door of utterance for you

Colossians 4:2-4

“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving, meanwhile also praying for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.”

Pray for boldness to share the Gospel

Ephesians 6:18-20

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Pray that the Lord will open hearts

Acts 16:13-14

“And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.”

**When we are led by the Lord to make contacts,
we will ask the Lord to give us His strength and boldness:**

To initiate contacts

John 4:7

“A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give Me a drink.’”

To be sensitive to needs

John 4:13-14

“Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.’”

To express appreciation for truthfulness

John 4:15-18

“The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Go, call your husband, and come here.’ The woman answered and said, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus said to her, ‘You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.’”

To not get sidetracked by which is the right religion

John 4:19-24

“The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.’”

To lead people to Christ

John 4:25-26

“The woman said to Him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When He comes, He will tell us all things.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I who speak to you am *He*.’”

To reach their relatives and friends for Christ

John 4:39-42

“And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, ‘He told me all that I *ever* did.’ So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, ‘Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.’”

The Lord works through us as we yield to Him!

Build relationships by developing a prayer ministry for unsaved relatives and friends

Christ helped Andrew become concerned about his brother

John 1:41-42

“He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, ‘You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas’ (which is translated, A Stone).”

Christ helped Philip become concerned about his friend

John 1:45-47

“Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote -- Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’ And Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, ‘Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!’”

Christ helped Matthew become concerned about his fellow workers

Matthew 9:9-10

“As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’ So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.”

Christ expanded that vision to the multitudes

Matthew 9:36-38

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (NKJV)

Christ expanded that vision to the world

Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (NKJV)

Principles for developing a prayer ministry for unsaved relatives and friends

Have the group pray for relatives that are not Christians

Have the group pray for friends that are not Christians

Have the group pray for fellow workers that are not Christians

Have the group begin to pray for others that are not Christians

IV.

How do we begin to build spiritual families?

In the New Testament we are given several pictures of the church such as the body of Christ or a spiritual family. In the Gospels and Acts we have the various forms of the word “disciple” used 273 times. However, that word is never used after Acts 21:16 even though our Great Commission is to “Make disciples”. The Jews had a clear understanding of what it meant to make disciples. However, that concept was foreign to the Greeks and the Romans.

As a result, once we get to the Epistles we see that they talk about spiritual parents and spiritual families. This is a key for us to understand especially when we are working with people of various cultures. All cultures pass on certain things to the next generation. These include: knowledge, society values and living skills. These are some key areas in spiritual family development as well as physical family development. This is true in both the Old and New Testaments. Moses was told in Exodus 18:20: “And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.” Moses was told to pass on three key things. He was told to:

**Teach the people the Word of God (knowledge)
Show the people the way to walk (character)
Show the people the work to do (ministry)**

As a spiritual leader, your five priorities are:

Exodus 18:19-21

“Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

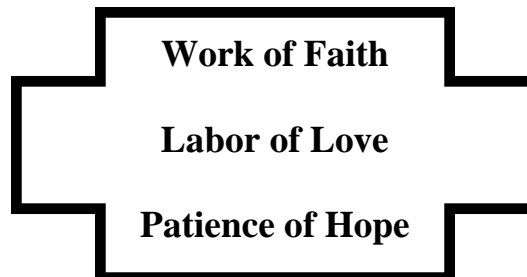
**Pray for the people
Teach the people the Word of God
Show the people the way to walk
Show the people the work to do
Share the work with the people**

Pray for the New Christians

Paul gives us a model in his prayer for the new Christians at Thessalonica I Thessalonians 1:2-4

“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.”

Paul thanked God for their:



Paul shows us five things to pray for as he prayed for the Christians at Ephesus Ephesians 3:14-19

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height -- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Paul prayed:

That they would be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man

That Christ might dwell in their hearts by faith

That they would be rooted and grounded in love

That they would know the love of Christ which passes knowledge

That they would be filled with all the fullness of God

We also need to pray for these same things for others

**Teach them the Word of God
(growth in Biblical knowledge)**

**Some need to be taught individually
Acts 18:26**

“So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”

**All need to be taught in group Bible studies
Acts 2:42**

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

**Many will only ask their questions in their homes
Acts 2:46**

“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,”

**Many will come to where you live to discuss the Scriptures
Acts 28:31**

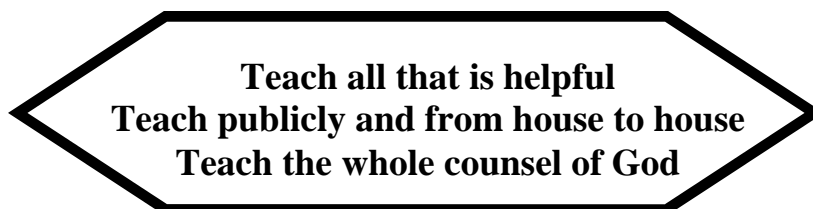
“Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.”

**Many have questions that they need to discuss and get answered
Acts 19:9-10**

“But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.”

**Our goals in teaching and discussion
Acts 20:20, 27**

“how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house...For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”



**Show them the way to walk
(growth in godly character)**

People grow spiritually by imitating other Christians

I Corinthians 11:1

“Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.”

People learn to follow the Lord by following the Lord’s people

I Thessalonians 1:5-7

“For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.”

The Thessalonians were learning to depend on the Holy Spirit

The Thessalonians were given examples by Paul, Silas and Timothy

The Thessalonians were becoming examples to others

People learn to deal with persecution from the example of others

Acts 8:1, 4

“Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles...Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”

The early church saw Stephen killed

The early church experienced great persecution

The early church was scattered to other regions

The early church went everywhere preaching the Word

Basic qualifications for spiritual leadership are character qualifications

Acts 6:3

“Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;”

**Men of good reputation
Men full of the Holy Spirit
Men full of wisdom**

**Show then the work to do
(growth in ministry)**

**Christ never asked the disciples to do something before He showed them how
Mark 1:17**

“Then Jesus said to them, Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”

**Paul took Timothy with him to show him how to minister
Acts 16:1-3a**

“Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, *the* son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father *was* Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have him go on with him.”

**Paul took many others with him to show them how to minister
Acts 20:4**

“And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia -- also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.”

**Paul had taken the leaders of Ephesus with him from house to house
Acts 20:20-21**

“how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The leaders had seen Paul teach all that was helpful

The leaders had gone with Paul from house to house

The leaders were shown how to teach repentance and faith

**People learn to reach others from the examples they have seen
Acts 11:19-21**

“Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.”

They followed the example they had seen in Jerusalem!

**Share the work with them
(obedience to what they are learning)**

People need to learn to obey or they only deceive themselves

James 1:22

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

People who both hear and obey are called wise by Christ

Matthew 7:24

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:”

People must be given opportunities to obey and share the work

Exodus 18:21-22

“Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be *that* every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear *the burden* with you.”

Moses was told to select qualified people

Moses was told to give them various levels of responsibility

Moses was to delegate authority to make most decisions

Moses was told to build a team of burden bearers

People will share the burden with us when we share the work

II Corinthians 7:5-6

“For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were troubled on every side. Outside *were* conflicts, inside *were* fears. Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus,”

Paul and Timothy were not getting any rest

Paul and Timothy were troubled on every side

Paul and Timothy were experiencing conflicts from without

Paul and Timothy were experiencing inner fears

Paul and Timothy were comforted by the ministry of Titus

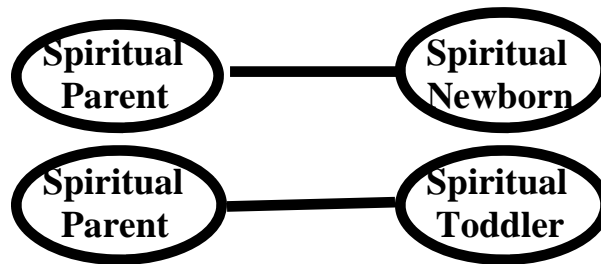
Family Relationships in the Body of Christ

Spiritual parents provide the care of a nursing mother

I Thessalonians 2:7-9

But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing *mother* cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. (NKJV)

This provides the first bonding relationship of a Christian

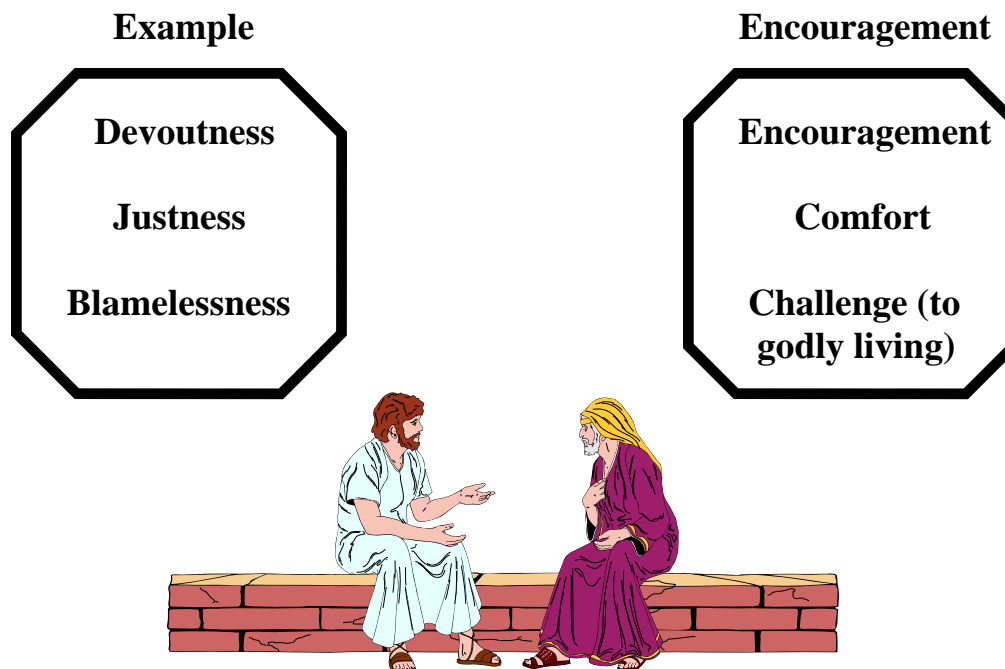


Spiritual parents provide the encouragement of a father

I Thessalonians 2:10-12

You *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father *does* his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. (NKJV)

This provides both example and encouragement to a Christian



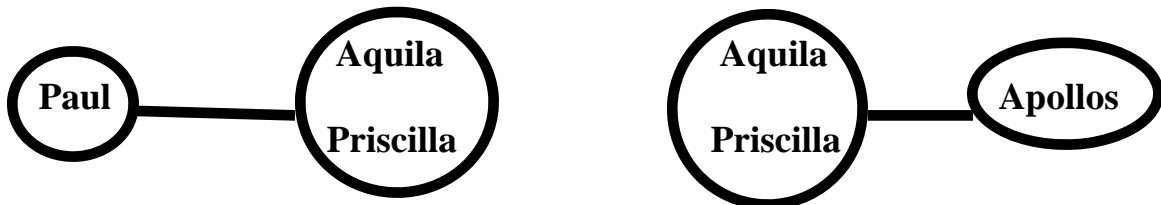
Spiritual parents carry out much of their ministry in one-to-one relationships

Acts 18:1-3

After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. (NKJV)

Acts 18:24-26

Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man *and* mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. (NKJV)



Spiritual parents spend much time with their spiritual children

Christ spent time daily with the twelve

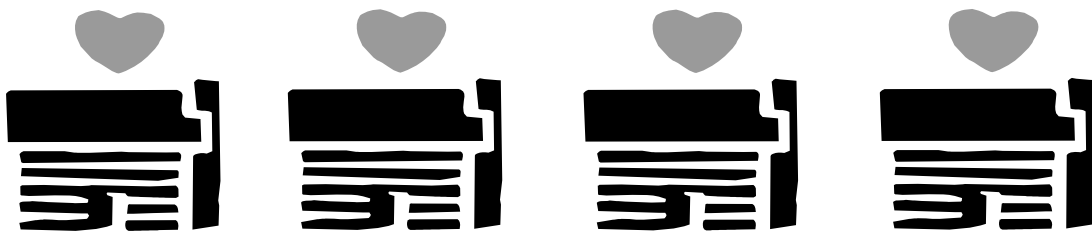
Mark 3:13-14

And He went up on the mountain and called to *Him* those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, (NKJV)

The early church leaders spent time with people in their homes

Acts 2:46

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, (NKJV)



Acts 20:20

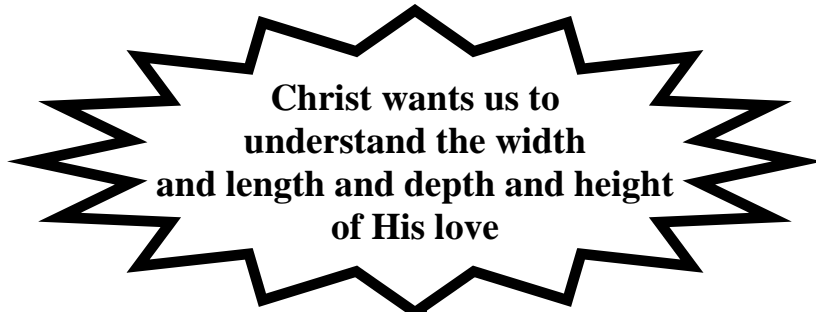
"How I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, (NKJV)

Spiritual parents help us learn to take root in the love of Christ

Christ loves us and wants us to take root in His love

Ephesians 3:17-19

That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height -- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (NKJV)



Christ's Love For Us

Christ loves us and wants us to walk in His love

Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. (NKJV)



Spiritual parents show us how to walk in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-18

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (NKJV)



Ways the Holy Spirit leads us

1. The Holy Spirit leads us through the Word of God

John 14:26

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. (NKJV)

I Corinthians 2:12-14

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. (NKJV)



2. The Holy Spirit leads us through prayer

Ephesians 6:18

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints -- (NKJV)

Acts 16:6-7

Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. (NKJV)



Pray without ceasing.

I Thessalonians 5:17



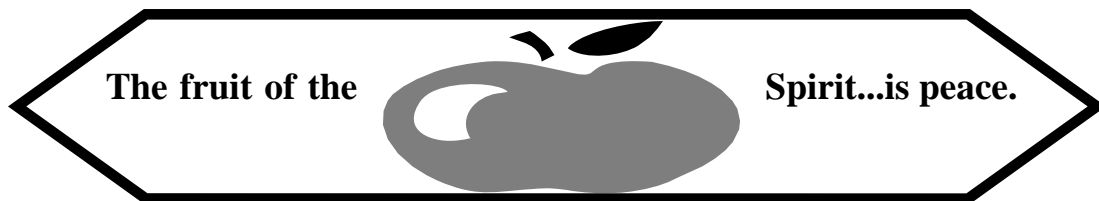
3. The Holy Spirit leads us through inner peace

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *Whose mind is stayed on You*, Because he trusts in You. (NKJV)

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (NKJV)



4. The Holy Spirit leads us through other people or circumstances

Acts 16:9

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." (NKJV)



Spiritual parents help reverse the effects of abandonment

Common forms of abandonment

Physical Abandonment	no one was there to be with us because of: absence abuse addictions
Mental Abandonment	no one was there to answer our questions
Social Abandonment	no one was there to show us how to develop healthy relationships with others
Emotional Abandonment	no one was there to listen and to understand us
Spiritual Abandonment	no one was there to lead us back to God

Spiritual parents spend time with us

I Thessalonians 2:9

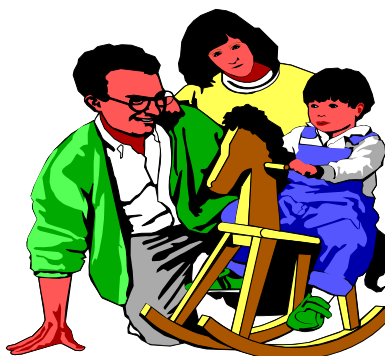
For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. (NKJV)

Acts 18:1-3

After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. (NKJV)

Just as physical children

spiritual children need



need physical parents,

spiritual parents

Spiritual parents answer our questions

Acts 19:9

But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. (NKJV)

Acts 20:20

"How I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, (NKJV)



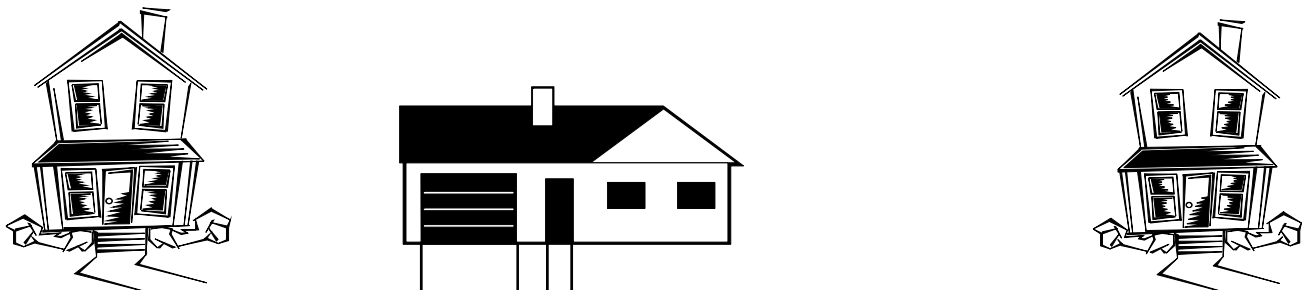
Spiritual parents show us how to develop healthy relationships with others

Acts 2:42

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (NKJV)

Acts 2:46

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, (NKJV)



They were continually breaking bread from house to house.

He...met in the marketplace daily with those who met him. - Acts 17:17

Spiritual parents listen to us so that they can understand us

James 1:19-20

So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. (NKJV)

Three characteristics of healthy listening and understanding

Quick to hear	to listen carefully so that there is full understanding of what is being said
Slow to speak	to be slow to answer so that we can think through what the person has said
Slow to wrath	anger which causes us to become agitated or seek to punish

Spiritual parents lead us back to God

I Thessalonians 2:13

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe. (NKJV)

We are led back to God by godly examples

Spiritual parents listen to us	the concern of a spiritual parent causes careful listening - I Thessalonians 2:7-12
Spiritual parents thank God when we are with them	God tells us to be thankful at all times for all things - Ephesians 5:20
Spiritual parents share the Word of God as we talk	the thoughts and ways of God are better than our thoughts and ways - Isaiah 55:8-9
Spiritual parents teach us the instructions of God	we learn we are free to use Christian liberty to show love - Galatians 5:13-14
We see God work in and through our lives	God can do more through us than we can ever imagine - Ephesians 3:20-21

Healthy relationships in the family of Christ expand to include brothers and sisters

Just as the physical family provides opportunities for us to develop relationships with brothers and sisters, the spiritual family should provide opportunities for us to develop close relationships with a spiritual family or small group.

The early church focused on spiritual families that cared

Acts 2:41-47

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. (NKJV)

- ♥ **Could study the Word of God together**
- ♥ **Fellowship together**
- ♥ **Break bread together (share in communion)**
- ♥ **Pray together**
- ♥ **Be together in one accord**
- ♥ **Share to meet needs of one another**
- ♥ **Eat meals together**
- ♥ **Praise God together**

Christ demonstrated how relationships should grow closer

John 15:15

"No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. (NKJV)

John 20:17

Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.' " (NKJV)

Servants	do not know the plans of their master
Friends	know the plans, ideas and goals of one another
Brethren	Christian brethren develop the kind of love that Christ showed to us - John 13:34-35, I John 3:14

Christ tells us what develops love between Christians

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (NKJV)

Stirring up love and good works requires two things

We must get together
We must exhort one another (to comfort, encourage and strengthen one another)

What is Christian Love?

I Corinthians 13:4-8a

Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. (NKJV)

Love has two characteristics

Love is patient (suffers long)

Love is kind

Love has eight things it does not do

Love does not envy (to desire what another person has)

Love does not parade itself (to boast about self)

Love does not puff itself up (to be proud)

Love does not behave rudely

Love does not seek its own (to demand one's own way)

Love is not provoked (to burn with anger)

Love thinks no evil (to think about the wrong deeds of others)

Love does not rejoice in iniquity (to break the law)

Love has four things it does

Love bears all things (to cover with silence)

Love believes all things (to entrust all things to Christ)

Love hopes all things (to wait for the future with all confidence)

Love endures all things (to bravely endure all wrongs toward us)

How do we develop close, loving relationships in the family of Christ?

**Spiritual love relationships develop most effectively
in a spiritual family or small group where we can:**

Acts 2:42-47

- ♥ Study the Word of God together
- ♥ Fellowship together
- ♥ Break bread together (share in communion)
- ♥ Pray together
- ♥ Be together in one accord
- ♥ Share to meet the needs of one another

Characteristics of healthy, loving “spiritual family” relationships

We ask Christ to give us new inner attitudes toward one another

Ephesians 4:30-32

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you. (NKJV)

As we yield to the Holy Spirit, He gives us the power to put away:

Bitterness	a bitter root which produces a bitter fruit
Wrath	anger which boils up
Anger	inner anger which causes us to want to get even
Clamor	a crying or shouting at each other
Evil Speaking	speech which slanders another’s good name
Malice	evil which causes us to desire to injure

As we yield to the Holy Spirit, He gives us the power to:

Be Kind to One Another - to be useful and good toward another

Be Tenderhearted toward one another - to show compassion

Forgive One another - to no longer hold the past against a person

Healthy relationships in the family of Christ mature as we learn to become adult spiritual sons and daughters

**This is primarily a change in relationship to our spiritual parents
and requires a change on their part as well as ours**

**An adult son contributes to the ongoing spiritual development of the parent
Acts 9:26-27**

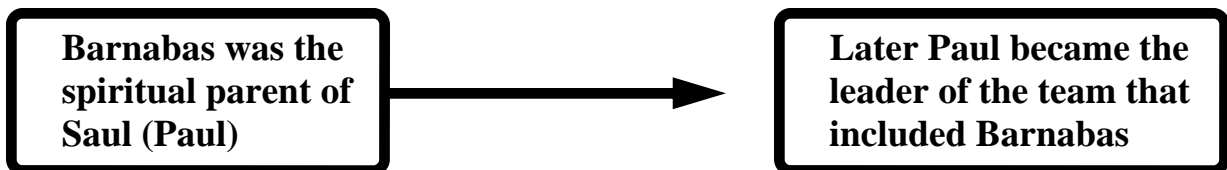
And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought *him* to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. (NKJV)

Acts 11:25-26

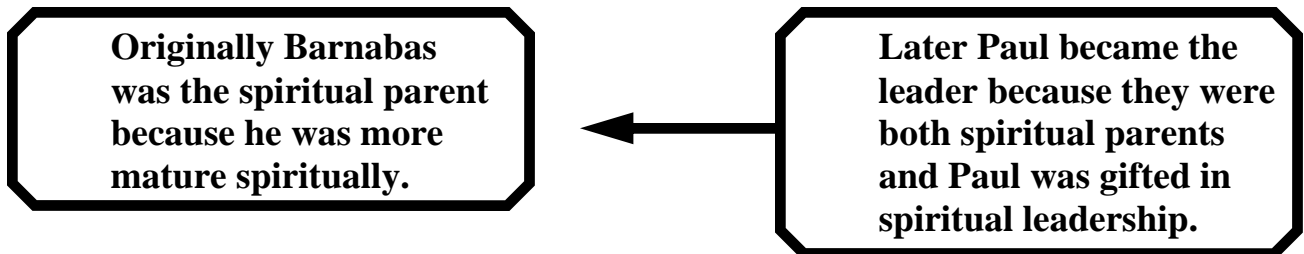
Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. (NKJV)

Acts 13:13

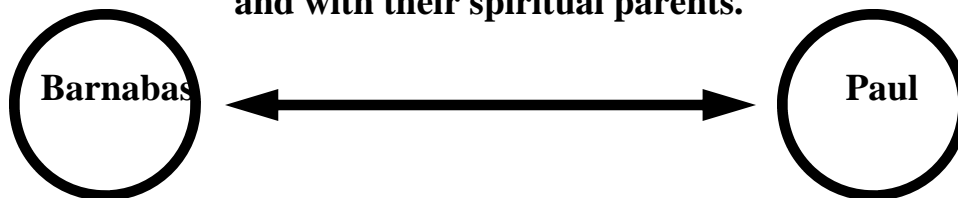
Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem. (NKJV)



This required a change of thinking on the part of both



**Spiritual adult sons minister to their spiritual parents
and with their spiritual parents.**



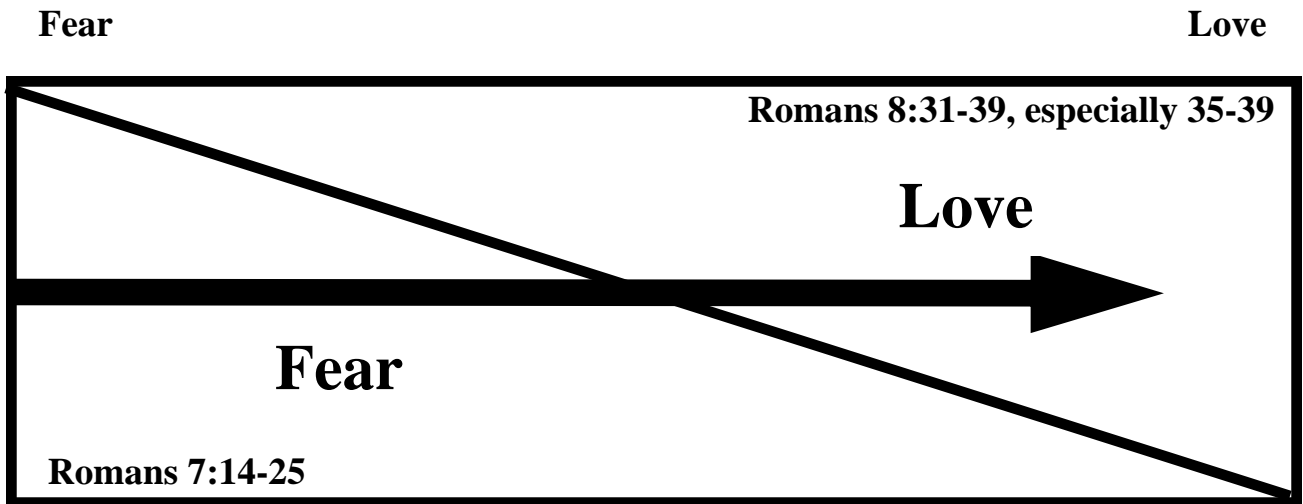
**Healthy Relationships are moving from fear toward love
This is directly related to the process of spiritual growth**

II Peter 3:18

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen. (NKJV)

I John 4:16-18

And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. (NKJV)



This results in decreasing fear as we take root in the love of Christ

Ephesians 3:17-19

That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height -- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (NKJV)

Fear

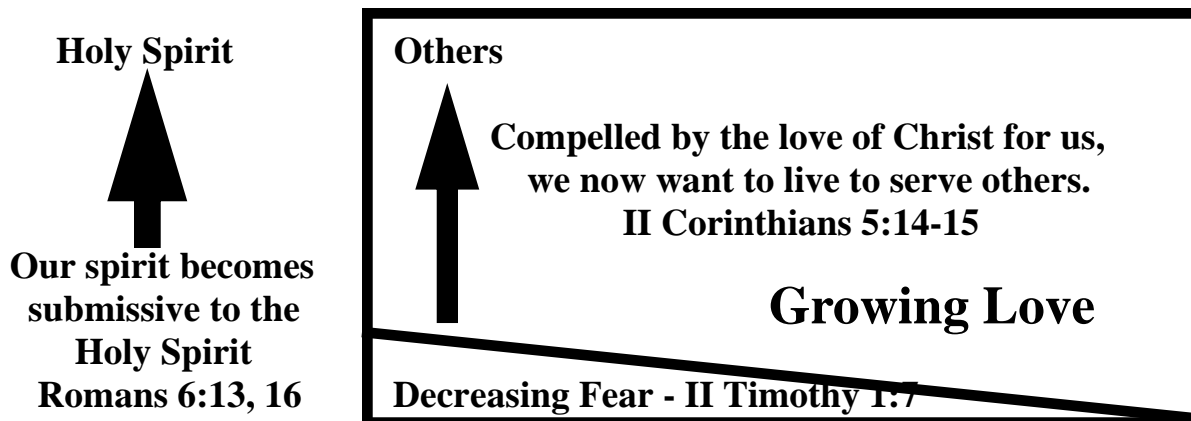
Love



Taking root in the love of Christ changes our motivation

II Corinthians 5:14-15

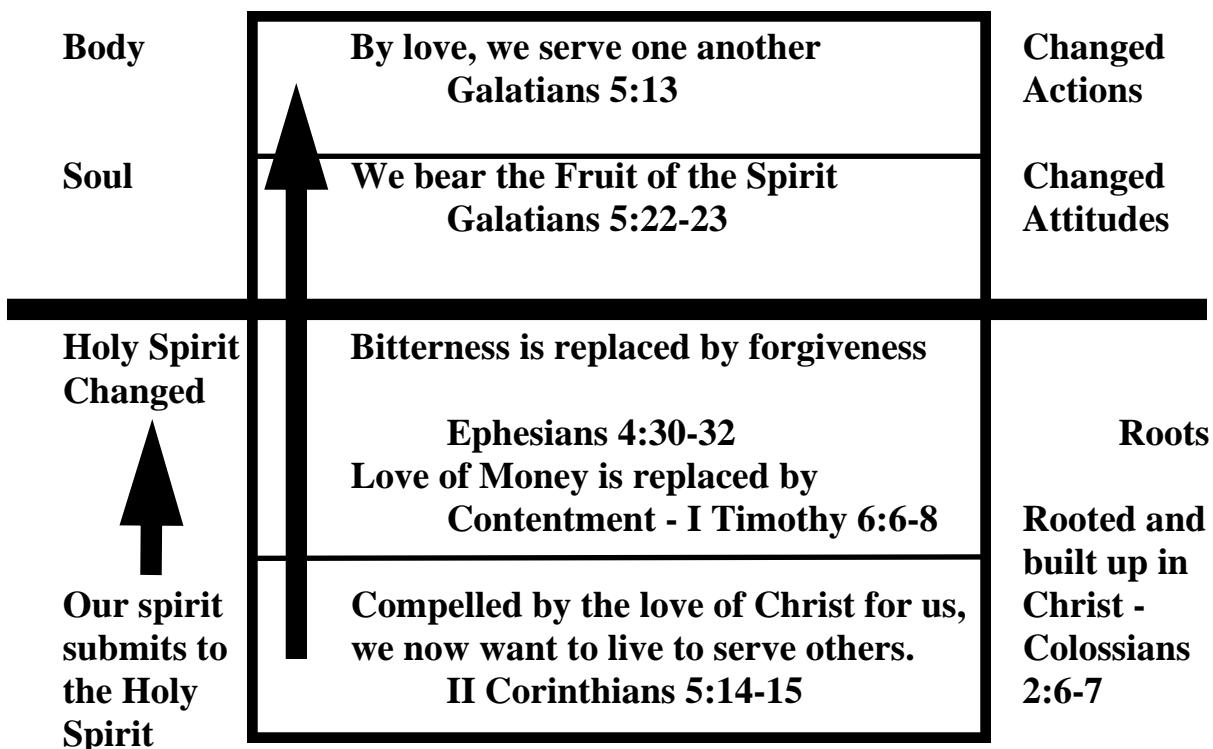
For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. (NKJV)



Taking root in the love of Christ changes our attitudes and actions

Galatians 5:13, 22-23

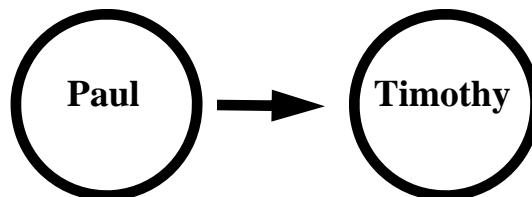
For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another... But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (NKJV)



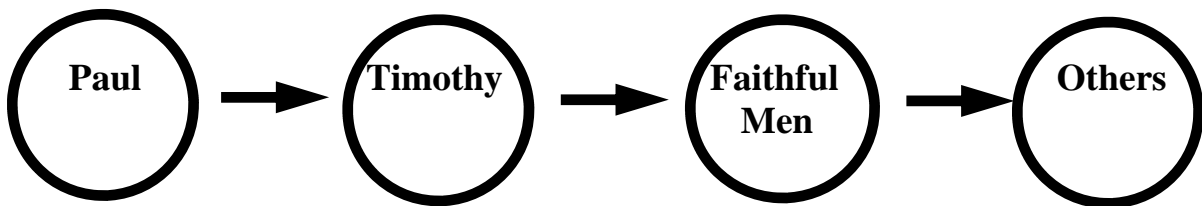
Spiritual maturity and healthy relationships give us a desire to become a spiritual parent to others

**Paul became a spiritual parent to Timothy
I Corinthians 4:15-17**

For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church. (NKJV)



Later Timothy became a spiritual parent to faithful men



Later those faithful men would become spiritual parents to others

II Timothy 2:2

And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (NKJV)

As we grow, God gives us a desire to become a spiritual parent to others

Three characteristics of effective spiritual parents

Exodus 18:20

"And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. (NKJV)

To be an effective spiritual parent we must be growing in:



A spiritual parent will pass on his inner attitudes to his spiritual child

Attitudes are caught from example rather than taught by word

Love	for Christ John 21:15-17 for one another John 13:34-35 for our neighbor Mark 12:29-31
A Learner's Attitude	Who are you Lord? Acts 9:5
A Servant's Heart	Lord, what do you want me to do? Acts 9:6

A spiritual parent will pass on his passion to

MAKE DISCIPLES

Matthew 28:19-20

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen. (NKJV)

