



SERIES: TRAIN
Sermon: "Whole-Life Discipleship"

The Sense of Urgency

Q: Why is it urgent for whole-life discipleship today?

John Stott said, "There is a discipleship theme in the Scripture that we seem to have neglected: it is the call to be different from the world around us. In the four great sections of the Bible, the same call is given to the people of God."

Q: Why is this consistent biblical theme being neglected by Christians?

Whole-life discipleship is the training of the followers of Jesus to surrender every area of their lives to His functional leadership in order to fulfill the purposes of God

Q: what difference would this make in their Christian experience?
in Summit's strength? in helping to change our world?

Read **1 Corinthians 10:31b**. Q: Does this seem daunting to you? How can we do this?

PREPARING THE FOUNDATION FOR WHOLE-LIFE DISCIPLESHIP

a) We deconstruct the sacred / secular divide

Read **Matthew 6:33**. Q: What does it mean to "seek first"?

b) We challenge underlying assumptions of our culture that influence us

Q: what are some of these assumptions (beliefs/values)?

c) We set Jesus as Lord & Redeemer of all aspects of life

Read **1 Peter 3:15** and **Romans 12:1-2**.

HOW WE PRACTICE WHOLE-LIFE DISCIPLESHIP

1. We Adjust Our View of the Gospel

How has the evangelical Church primarily seen the Gospel?

A broader understanding of the Gospel: trusting Jesus (His life, death & resurrected reign) to bring us into the eternal life of the Kingdom of God, to ransom us by His Spirit and Word in Kingdom life, and to continue to His Kingdom work on earth until He returns to establish the Kingdom in all its eternal fullness.

Q: How does an understanding of the Gospel like this shape our response to the Gospel?

2. We Reclaim Our Doctrine of Vocation

Read **Colossians 3:23-24**.

Vocation is believing that all of life — at home and in the world (esp. work) — is *worship* unto God, *spiritual formation* in Christ-likeness and *mission* in the power of the Spirit.

Q: Reading the above, what differences jump out at how you have viewed your work?

Q: How does this view challenge you? How does it inspire you?

3. We Fulfill our Responsibility of Stewardship

Stewardship is the management of someone else's property or affairs. A *steward* is one who has been given the responsibility and privilege of managing the assets on behalf of their owner, for the purposes of the owner and for the benefit of the owner.

Read the following passages with the lenses of being a steward. **Psalm 24:1; Haggai 2:8; Deuteronomy 8:17-18; Malachi 3:10; Luke 19:12-26; 1 Peter 4:10-11.**

Q: Do these verses motivate you (“What a privilege that I get to do this!!”) or do they convict you (“I haven’t been doing much for God with my resources or spiritual gifts”)?

Read **1 Corinthians 4:2**.

Gerry said, “Whole-life discipleship & faithful stewardship are two sides of the same coin”. Discuss how and why they are essential to each other.

Reflect:

Q: what part of your life is going to improve if you were in control rather than Jesus? 😊

Q: what part of your life do you think Jesus is going to make a mess of that you think you wouldn’t?”

Q: what area of life is the Holy Spirit calling to bring under Jesus’ functional leadership?

Q: what underlying assumptions of culture do I need to challenge that is influencing me?

Q: who (2 or 3) is God bringing to your attention that you could begin to disciple?

“CULTURAL CHRISTIANITY IS
BURNING UP... ALL THAT’S LEFT
IS A RESILIENT, SUPER ROBUST
DISCIPLESHIP TO JESUS.”