

Ephesians 4:11-16



Equipping Christians For Ministry

Speaker: Dr. Ray Reynolds from Heritage Christian University

McComb Church of Christ (McComb, MS) – July 4, 2018

Introduction: Jesus sent out His disciples 2 x 2 (Mark 6:7, Luke 10:1). Why? What is God's plan? We need to see the plan of God for the church (Ephesians 4:11-16). He wants us to become equipped for ministry and then share what we know with others. We need to consider some biblical mandates about passing on what we have learned from God:

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 says, *"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."* How's our teaching?

Proverbs 22:6 says, *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."* How's our training?

Matthew 28:18-20 says, *"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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."* How's our replicating?

II Timothy 2:2 says, *"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."* How's our delegating?

The Lord's work is a team effort. From the garden to the ark to the exodus and beyond. He has emphasized cooperation. Let's study together about how we can equip Christians for ministry...

Discussion:

STEP #1 – Connecting (John 4:1-30, John 13:1-20)

We need to establish trust.

We need to tell our story.

We need to strengthen priorities.

We need to be more receptive.

NOTES:

STEP #2 – Recruiting (Matthew 14:22-33, Matthew 26:31-35)

Jesus = 120, 70, 12, 3, 1

Most leaders will reveal themselves.

Spend time with them individually.

Don't force or manipulate them.

NOTES:

STEP #3 – Teaching (Matthew 5-7, Matthew 28:18-20)

Use the teachable moments.
Try not to lecture or critique.

Find ways to make application.
Celebrate when they succeed.

NOTES:

STEP #4 – Mentoring (I Timothy 1:1-3, I Timothy 3:15-16)

There are dozens of Bible examples.
Teens can mentor their peers.

You can mentor your leaders.
A mentor is more friend than judge.

NOTES:

STEP #5 – Preparing (Luke 12:48, Romans 12:6-8)

Find their talents and strengths.
They need accountability.

They need responsibility.
This is true discipleship.

NOTES:

STEP #6 – Coaching (I Corinthians 12:27-31, I Corinthians 13:1-13)

We need to move to the sidelines.
They will not be there forever.

Birds have to leave the nest to fly.
Find ways to give them freedom.

NOTES:

STEP #7 – Approving (Luke 24:13-35, Matthew 25:14-30)

The leaders may not shine clearly.
Honor the mature leaders.

Seek out the wise leaders.
Have fun with the spiritual leaders.

NOTES:

Conclusion: We need to develop an environment where there can be true discipleship and biblical mentoring (the lessons for the next two weeks). This can take considerable time and energy. Thankfully, we have examples of those who have been successful!

There is no simple solution. There is no silver bullet. No magic wand. No red pill. No book, method, or program will fix the problem. WE have to teach the next generation (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). WE have to train up that child in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6). WE have to take the gospel into all the world (Mark 16:15-16). WE have to teach them to observe all the things the Lord commanded us (Matthew 28:18-20). WE have to commit what we know to faithful men (II Timothy 2:2). WE have to equip the Saints for ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16). WE means YOU.

We need to live out the plan of God for His church. Let's do ministry like Jesus. Let's follow the biblical pattern. Let's equip Christians for ministry!

MORE RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND AT:

www.gulfshoreschurchofchrist.org or www.hcu.edu