



Our hope is that you were challenged by Sunday's message and would desire to take the study a little deeper. Whether for personal study, family study, or for a Home Group gathering, use this study to go deeper.

Open

August 26, 2018

"Every Christian should have in his/her life a 'Paul,' a 'Timothy,' and a 'Barnabas.'"

This was said (I don't know if it was original with him) by one of my seminary professors and it has stayed with me for almost 25 years. He was explaining the biblical principle of discipleship. In obedience to God, and for our spiritual growth, we should be following someone further along than us (Paul), leading someone a little behind us (Timothy), and giving to and gaining from the encouragement of a friend right beside us (Barnabas). Most could name one (probably many) that they consider a Barnabas, but I rarely encounter people willing to call themselves a Paul to someone else or identify in their life a Timothy. Is this okay? Did Jesus leave us with a Great Suggestion?

Main Point

Read Titus 2:1-15 (and others recommended) and discuss one of many passages that teaches these principles in practical ways.

Read

Titus 2:1-15; Philemon 10-16; 3 John 1-4; Matthew 28:16-20

Discuss

1. Titus 2 is the quintessential chapter in the Bible on "generational" discipleship. The implication is mentorship based on physical age. However, spiritual maturity is also involved. How do we know that?
2. Further down in the chapter, the authoritative, earthly relationship switches to masters and servants, but the teaching is similar. How is Paul continuing the message of discipleship?
3. Philemon (vv. 10-16) reinforces the points made in the previous two questions. What is the relationship between Paul, Philemon, and Onesimus? How is discipleship displayed in this case?
4. Another of the original disciples (John) has a similar experience. How does he view his role in the lives of his followers in comparison to Paul, Onesimus, and Philemon?
5. Among a gathering of those who love Jesus, it is rather simple to find someone more mature, less mature, and equal in maturity. Aside from immediate family members, name someone in each of those three categories.



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