

Passing the Baton  
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WOMEN'S CHALLENGE GROUP  
MARCH 1995

Last month's assignment had to do with what we are responsible for as a discipler, and what we are not responsible for. That is what we will spend time on this afternoon.

**What I AM responsible for:**

1. **The heart or character of the discipler.** A good discipler has a heart that is abandoned to God. I have made a copy of a book called *Keeping the Heart* by John Flavel. Flavel was one of the men that inspired Charles Spurgeon. Read poem on page 315 of *Abandoned to God* (Oswald Chambers). The deepest responsibility we have to our disciple is that we are first and foremost in love with Christ.
2. **Authority and Obedience.** Without submitting first to the rightful authority of Christ - where He has the right to spend out our lives in any way He desires - we cannot pass on this attitude to our disciples. Luke 7:40, "A disciple is not above her teacher; but everyone, after she has been fully trained, will reach her teacher's level. We do pass on our attitudes. Our disciples will imitate our sins and weaknesses. If the younger Christian sees me tolerate sin, she will do the same. 1 Tim. 4:6-8 says, "Now, Tim, as you work with your brothers, you be a good servant of Jesus Christ, being constantly nourished on the word of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following... discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness because godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." A good question to reflect on from time to time is, "Am I the same in private that I am in public?" **The discipler's life is a visual aid to younger Christians.**
3. **Faithfulness in Friendship.** Will I be a genuine friend? Will I give my disciple the "blessing?" By that, I mean will I be affectionate when appropriate? Will I offer words of encouragement? Will I express her high value to me and to God? Will I pray for her to have discernment about her direction? Her future? Her gifting? Will I actively be committed to her - helping her grow spiritually, working through character issues? Will I offer up my time, resources and energy to her for her best? Commitment also includes the long term. Will I stay with her until she can begin to do spiritual work?
4. **Dependence/Interdependence.** We are responsible to teach our disciples to be interdependent (strong inner convictions, belief in God) and dependent (able to trust God in the development and use her own strengths). This means that my life does not revolve around my disciple because I am growing more dependent/interdependent myself, setting personal and spiritual growth goals for myself. Disciples need to see the discipler's constant growth in love for God, taking on new roles and responsibilities. We are learning to follow and depend on Christ and by imitation, they will follow. Therefore, we are responsible:

To be committed in our sanctification

To demonstrate God's grace in every situation, toward every person.

(Walter Henrichsen, *Disciples are Made, Not Born*, pg. 77)

To pray for our disciple

(Walter Henrichsen, *Disciples are Made, Not Born*, pg. 82)

Develop accountability with leaders in home group.

Your disciple has to see that you are serious being a disciple of Jesus Christ. That you are practicing your spiritual gifting; that you are training yourself to walk in the Spirit; that you are serious about your sanctification.

## **What I AM NOT responsible for**

1. Clean up their messes - spiritually, relationally or financially (their "fights" with God, with people, with money), but teach them how to handle these issues.
2. Protect them from consequences. Teach them to trust God's hand in their lives. This is how we learn the difference between fantasy, myths and what is really true reality.
3. Their sin, rebellion, anger, withdrawal. Teach them the discomfort of being alienated from God, the victory of overcoming the fear of conflict. We need to teach our disciples to pay attention to these emotions. They are indicators of our heart's condition. Prov. 4:23. Where are they taking their life from? What are their idols?
4. Their success (result of their obeying God). Teach them to enjoy what God accomplishes through them. Obedience does produce fruit.
5. Finding them ministry (we suggest, encourage). Teach them as they serve sacrificially, their gifting will emerge. **Lack of ministry indicates selfishness, love of comfort, etc.**
4. Family problems, boyfriend problems, roommate problems. Again, teach them how to be honest, be sacrificial, developing the ability to handle common problems in life. All of these problems are indicators of (a) what needs to be learned, (b) what needs to be forgiven, (c) what needs to be healed. Teach them to not be afraid of problems, but to let God mature them by taking a hard look at these issues and doing something to get them resolved.

### **Assignment for April**

Pray for your disciple. Do a ministry evaluation. What are the issues in her life? Using the Curriculum for Discipling Stages, design a 3-month syllabus to help her mature through those issues.

## What do you do when your disciple is under attack?

1. Don't react negatively especially with a young disciple. Keep communication open.

girl who  
is let home  
= boy friend

Leah - keep loving her, pray, + wait for her  
Return. Send tapes on Sexuality + Bible verses

2. Separate sin and sinner - never reject your disciple - or child - keep loving and speaking the truth in love. Eph. 4:15

Rebellion of sons - embarrassing, feel guilty and a failure  
don't say "How could you do this to me?"  
don't cave into secular counselors who say "you are too strict"

3. Give a vision → positive of God's plan for their life vs. Satan's destructive tactic to destroy their walk with Christ and hurt them.

(e.g.) Satan entrenched in family - girl molested -  
became promiscuous - now saved but has nightmares  
Feels she doesn't deserve "grace" - can't forgive self -  
Muddled thinking + writing. Now 'safe' in ministry the 'vision' = evangelism

4. Teach your disciple to flee immorality (i.e. sin of any kind) but resist Satan. Satan must be actively resisted - the only way to deal with him is to stay and fight. Satan is a defeated enemy, he has no right in the life of a disciple.

+ challenge his harassment. Need to fight Satan  
up + my mind can go off in many directions  
of what might happen or go wrong. I turn on  
the light. - read the Word or book, pray until attack is over

has her 1st  
Convert  
Is totally  
transformed

5. So where do you think difficulties in our lives and our disciples' lives come from? Do we cause them ourselves? Does the devil cause them? Are they the negative consequences of our past sins? Or does God cause them?

My parents: attack when on furlough - Satan tried  
to get Africans to reject my parents, mission board would not  
send Mom back - Dad paid for Mom + me - Key: stand firm  
don't react to hate, pray

The answer is, of course, all of the above. How do I know which cause? Much more importantly - how am I to react?

Dependence on God trusting him through the difficulty; asking Him what you can learn and then apply the lesson in your life.