

Follow-up Studies: One Another Relationships — God's Plan

Although you will not find a doctrine of “discipling partners” explicitly spelled out in the New Testament, it is indisputable that the scriptures teach the necessity of one-another relationships. The importance of ongoing discipleship should be clear to someone before he makes Jesus Lord. This study aims to cultivate an attitude of openness on the part of the young Christian to input, as well as to remind him that, in the final analysis, it is the responsibility of the one who has confessed Jesus as Lord to persevere in his Christian growth.

Discipleship is not a human expedient; it is a clear command of God (Matthew 28:19).

Levels of discipling

- Hebrews 3:12—Others disciple us.
- Hebrews 4:12—The Word discipulates us.
- Hebrews 5:11-14—We disciple ourselves.
- Hebrews 6:12—We are disciplined by the faithful examples of biblical figures.
- Hebrews 12:7-13—The Lord (through circumstances requiring patience) disciplines us, too.

Being disciplined

- 2 Timothy 2:2—The teaching process: a chain reaction.
- Colossians 1:28-2:1—The goal is maturity/completeness/perfection. There will be difficulties in any one-another relationship, but try to realize that the challenges you receive are made in love. This is hard work.
- Proverbs 10:17—Attitude of openness to correction. If you have the wrong attitude, you will lead others astray.
- Proverbs 11:14—Ask for advice.
- Proverbs 12:15 and 15:12—Cherish challenge and initiate with the one helping you.

Practicals

- Arrange a regular time to meet together each week with an older, more mature Christian.
- Strive for daily contact.