

# Intentional Discipleship

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Recovering the Art  
of Making Disciples

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**LED**  
TO  
**LEAD**



# Introductions

- Gill Price
- Christ Community Church
- My Passion: Discipleship



# Discipleship: What is it?

We all know we need to do it.

And Jesus came and said to them, "...Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you..."

- Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)



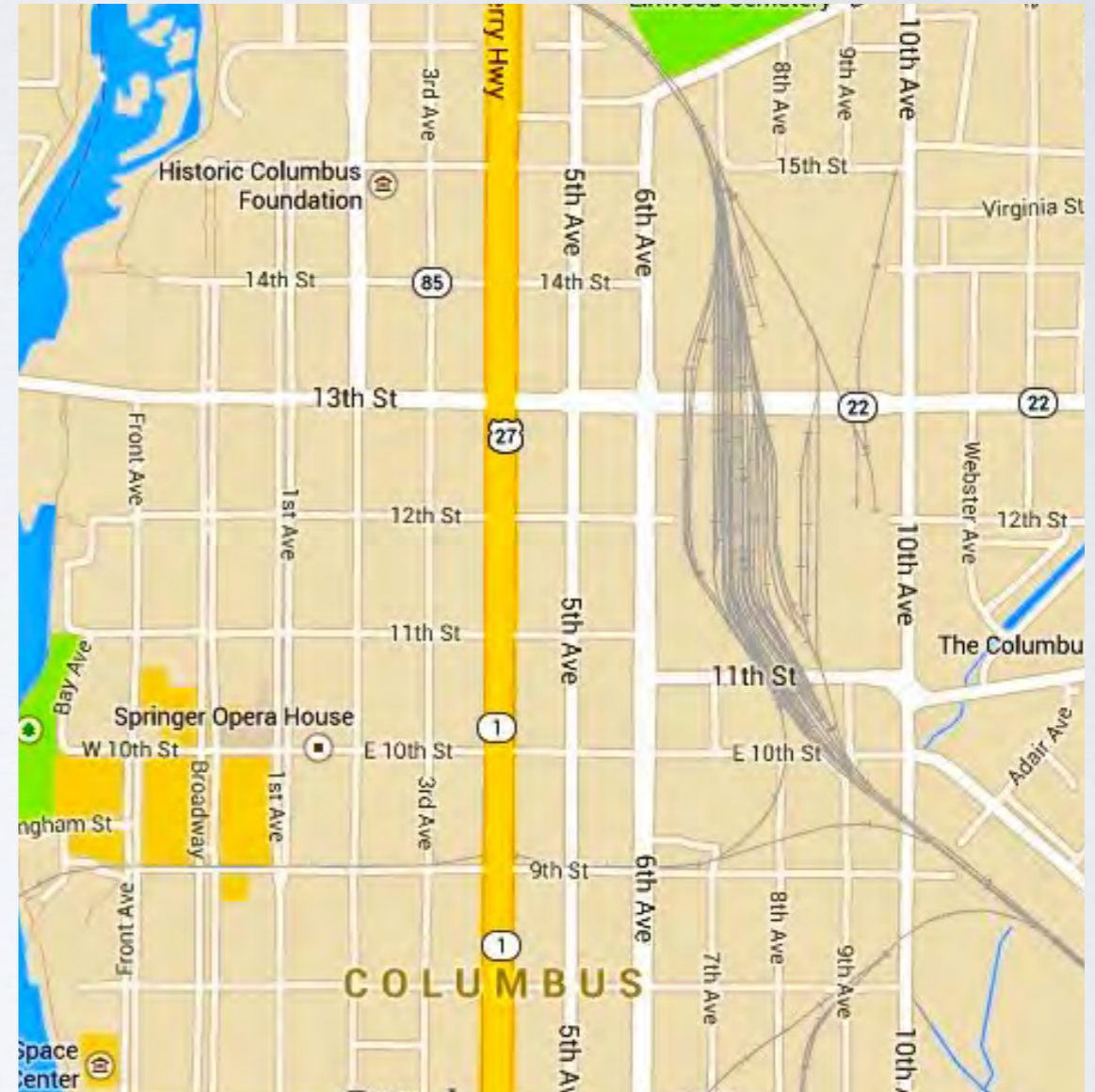
# Discipleship: What is it?

But what is it?

- Is discipleship only for leaders and other mature and qualified people?
- Does Christian growth occur primarily through listening to good sermons and participating in Bible studies?
- Does one need to have specialized training before beginning the complex process of equipping others?

# Determining the Destination

- To have an idea of the route, we must know the destination.
- What do you want to produce? What are the characteristics you want to see in a “disciple” of Christ?



# Determining the Destination

## One Definition of Discipleship

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...

- Ephesians 4:11-13 (ESV)



# Determining the Destination

## One Definition of Discipleship from Ephesians 4:11-13

- **Mature.** Submitted to the Holy Spirit, the Word, and the love of Christ. Faithful member of Christ's Body. Effective manager of life, relationships and resources.
- **Equipped.** Has discovered and developed spiritual gifts. Willingly ministers to others. Effectively shares life and faith with those who are in need.
- **Deployed.** Employs spiritual gifts in serving both within and without the Church. Focused on advancing the Kingdom.



# Determining the Destination

## Other Thoughts on Destination

- Other Biblical Definitions:
  - Qualifications for Leaders (1 Tim 3:1-13)
  - Others?
- How would you define Discipleship? What would your “end state” be?



# The Concern of Culture

## The Great Commission

And Jesus came and said to them... “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...”

- Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)



# The Concern of Culture

## The Great Commandment

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

- Matthew 22:37-39 (ESV)



# The Concern of Culture

Discipleship takes on one of two cultures.

## The Great Commission

(Mt 28:18-20)

Emphasis on “doing”:  
going, baptizing, teaching

Outward-Focused

Lends toward structure

## The Great Commandment

(Mt 22:37-39)

Emphasis on “being”:  
Relationship (i.e. love)

Inward-Focused

Lends toward “the organic”

**Both are Essential!**

# The Concern of Culture

- What is your culture? Great Commission or Great Commandment?
- How do you move to center?
- What are obstacles you face in doing the kind of discipleship you want to do?
- When considering discipleship, “context (i.e. culture) is king”. You must understand the environment before you initiate change.

# Progress in Process

- Determine your culture:  
Great Commission or Great Commandment?  
Vision/Mission Statement?
- Prayerfully dream. What could this look like?
- Develop a discipleship model that fits your culture.  
Then look to shift to center.

# Progress in Process

Discipleship Models range from highly structured to purely organic. There are dangers on both sides.

**Highly Structured**

**Purely Organic**



Tendency towards legalism

Tendency towards “Cheap Grace”

Deep relationships a challenge

Accountability a challenge

Freedom of action a challenge

Difficult to mobilize

**Tension is Essential!**



# Progress in Process

- Develop a curriculum. What are the core tenets that every believer should know? (e.g T4T)
- Start! Even if the plan is imperfect, get started.
- Assess and adjust.

# Resources

- *INsourcing: Bringing Discipleship Back to the Local Church* by Randy Pope
- *T4T: A Discipleship Re-Revolution* by Steve Smith with Ying Kai
- <http://www.juio.net>  
“The Seven Commands of Christ” and other Resources for discipleship