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***Disciple Building:  
A Biblical Framework***  
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# **Disciple Building: A Biblical Framework**

## **Table of Contents**

### **Introduction**

- We Face a Crisis of Maturity
- We Need a New Perspective Regarding Discipleship
- People Need to Grow

### **Five Foundational Assumptions of Biblical Disciple Building**

- **Foundational Assumption #1**  
"Because God made man in His own image, He desires that all humanity reflect Him and bring glory to His name. "
- **Foundational Assumption #2**  
"Helping believers grow to maturity should be a top priority for the church."
- **Foundational Assumption #3**  
"There is a process, revealed in Scripture, that produces maturity."
- **Foundational Assumption #4**  
"Christ had a pattern/process for building disciples that can serve as the basis for contemporary disciple building."
- **Foundational Assumption #5**  
"The R-CAPS framework is an intentional approach for achieving the goals of maturity and serves as a guideline for a disciple building curriculum."

### **Balance is Required**

- Balancing Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility
- Balancing Positional and Experiential Truth
- Balancing World Evangelization and Disciple Building
- Balancing Different Kinds of Leadership
- Balancing Community and Individual Growth
- Balancing Leadership Development and Emotional Healing

### **Where Do We Go From Here?**

- Review
- Action Steps

Excerpt from *Disciple Building: A Biblical Framework*:

### **People Need and Want to Grow**

God wants His people to progress to maturity and believers want to grow up. Becoming a Christian is only the beginning of the process. What is most needed is a better understanding and application of the growth process. The church today needs to find a more effective way to develop mature lay leadership that is able to work alongside the vocational church staff to equip others in the congregation. Paul refers to this process in his ministry and instruction to Timothy.

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others (II Timothy 2:2).”

Paul had been discipling Timothy, and now he wanted Timothy to have a similar ministry with “reliable” men who would be able to disciple others. It was Paul’s clear goal to multiply himself and his ministry through Timothy. Moreover, Paul instructs the churches to have this same kind of ministry in the church as a whole.

“It was he (Jesus) who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).”

Paul’s message is clear: the leaders Jesus provides have the responsibility to disciple people in the congregation so that they too can minister to others according to their gifts. Then as this ‘every member’ ministry of the congregation develops, the whole church becomes involved in building itself up. This fuller ministry is necessary for the whole church to reach unity and maturity.

The plan is not complicated, but there is an important unanswered question. What is the pattern or process by which the church leadership is to train and instruct the congregation? Paul refers to a “pattern of sound teaching” in his instructions to Timothy. (II Tim 1.) Where can we find this pattern that enables church leaders to transfer character and maturity? Must the modern Church use ‘trial and error’ to figure it out? Will the Spirit of God lead us? Are we to simply teach all the Bible and trust that character will develop? God will certainly use many means to equip us, but what if there is a more strategic method? As we will see, Jesus Himself provided such a disciple building approach.