

As most of you know, Mikayla graduated from high school this year. Gabby is about to start her second full year of college. And Haddon is about to begin his time in high school, although he will be going to school on-line.

Education is an important part of human development. But education is more than just learning reading, writing, and arithmetic. We've all known someone who was "book smart" but had no common sense. We've all also know someone who had common sense but was not "learned."

Good schools and good teachers are important because they help educate children and education is a part of the maturing process. It starts with learning to count, learning your A, B, C's, the colors and shapes. It then progresses to reading and math. Over time the level of reading and the complexity of the math increase. Subjects like history and science get added to the mix and then they too get more specialized and in depth.

But there are some things that parents, family, and, in my opinion, sports are better at teaching. Things like manners, gratitude, love, self-sacrifice, putting others first, and faith.

Over in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 we read: All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

James wrote: Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. But endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

Clearly, God desires that his children mature and work toward completion. For that to happen, we as Christians must educate or "disciple" one another. And while we should certainly engage in one-on-one discipleship, we must also practice discipleship as a church.

After all, the Great Commission given by Jesus to his followers states: 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 everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Scripture: Various

## **I. Discipleship**

### **A. Principle (Eccl. 4:9-12; Prov. 27:17)**

#### **1. Safety**

- a) When one falls there is someone there to help them back up

- b) **Companionship to keep us warm (on fire for the Lord)**
  - 2. **Strength**
    - a) **Better return for our efforts when we work together**
    - b) **We stand stronger and longer when we stand together**
  - 3. **Sharpening**
    - a) **We whet one another's appetite**
    - b) **We make each other into better soldiers/weapons for the Lord**
- B. Practice**
- 1. **Submitting to Instruction (Acts 2:42; Matthew 28:19-20)**
    - a) **Accept wisdom and instruction from those more mature**
      - (1) **A wise man loves instruction, a fool loathes instruction**
        - (a) **Prov. 12:15; 15:5**
      - (2) **God has called some to teach, preach, and lead (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11-12)**
        - (a) **That means that God has called some to listen, learn, and follow (1 Cor. 12:29-30; 1 Tim. 1:7)**
      - (3) **Leaders, teachers, and preachers have a greater responsibility because they are leaders, teachers, and preachers (Jas. 3:1)**
        - (a) **Those who are called to listen, learn, and follow must accept and embrace their responsibility to listen, learn, and follow (Ezek. 33:4-5; Rom. 14:12; 1 Pet. 5:5; Heb 13:17; )**
  - 2. **Studying the Inspired Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17)**
    - a) **Teaching - Instructing**
    - b) **Rebuking - Criticizing sinful behavior**
      - (1) **Pointing it out and calling it what it is (Evidence)**
      - (2) **Accountability**
    - c) **Correcting - Making it right**
      - (1) **Teaching responsibility and repentance**
      - (2) **Straightening up**
    - d) **Training**
      - (1) **Practical application**
      - (2) **Pushing out of comfort zone**
    - e) **In Righteousness**
      - (1) **Applies to all of the above**
      - (2) **Only way is through the Word**
  - 3. **Surviving the Instability of Life (James 1:3-5)**
    - a) **Know that testing produces endurance**
      - (1) **There is a point to what your experiencing**
        - (a) **Divinely allowed and/or appointed**

- (b) God is all wise**
- b) Know that endurance must complete its work**
  - (1) It is only for a time (Ps. 23; Ec. 3)**
  - (2) God's timing is perfect**