

Teaching Them To Observe All Things

Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

-Teaching them to observe all thingsø There are lots of things that we learn as we grow in the Lord and the message here is simpleí donø keep all of that to yourself. For thousands of years Christians have been passing on spiritual truths from one person to another and today is no different. Investing our lives in one another is discipleship and will produce disciples.

I know a lot of time when we start talking about teaching spiritual things some immediately begin thinking weøre only talking about what preachers, deacons or small group leaders do.

Usually when I speak about someone teaching them to observe all things, people will look at their pastorí After all thatø really their job, rightí itø the preachers jobí .hey preacher you better get in here this guy is talking about your job.

Uhí .not exactlyí and I think I can prove it if you will give me the chance.

Think about some of the people that have invested in your life or maybe a better way to put it is think of some of the people that discipled you. Who were the people that poured what they knew into you.

For many of you it will be a teacher, a neighbor, a relative, or a co-workerí I would argue that very few people have been discipled by their pastors.

For me there were several people. One of those people is a man by the name of Bill Black. I met Bill in 1996 after my wife and I relocated our family to a small east Texas town.

Bill and Martha Black taught a very small Bible study class in one room of an old parsonage. Bill wasnøt what you would call a Bible scholar; He was a simple man that worked hard to provide for his family and loved the Lord with all of his heart.

He was never what I would call a great speaker and just like the rest of us, he had a hard time pronouncing some of the names in the Bible.

However, Bill was a great disciple maker. Let me explain, of the four couples in his Bible study one is serving in the deacon ministry, one couple moved into youth ministry, one couple went into world missions and Joan and I are serving the Lord teaching discipleship.

Not bad for an east Texas electrician with no formal ministry training. But thatø the point isnøt it. Bill knew the key to making disciples was sharing the spiritual truths he learned with others.

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He taught faithful men and women by using his own life as an example. He never hid the fact that he wasn't perfect and never claimed to be.

Teaching them to observe all things is all of our jobs. Things like grace, joy, peace, and comfort may come easier than teaching something like living sacrifices, fellow bondservants, being ridiculed and persecuted for Christ sake.

None the less, it is our job to teach them to observe all things in doing so we will make disciples.

Thank you for your service to the saints,