

The Unifying Principle of Relational Discipling: Serve New Life--New Being and Then New Doing

Principle: Relational discipling fosters transformation in both our identity (new being) and our actions (new doing). It goes beyond learning or behavior modification, centering instead on cultivating a Christ-centered identity naturally leading to Spirit-empowered actions. This transformation happens as our inner spiritual life (soul and spirit) aligns with our will and choices. By focusing on the whole person—both who we are becoming and what we are doing—relational discipling reflects Jesus' model of loving others as he loves us (John 13: 34-35); emphasizing deep personal and spiritual growth through meaningful relationships.

Purpose: The goal is to create a self-replicating culture of spiritual growth where those disciplined experience new life in Christ and are equipped to disciple others. Authentic, other-centered relationships focus on "new being," highlighting inner transformation and soul healing, and "new doing," showcasing how this transformation is lived out daily in service to others.

Application: Relational discipling involves walking alongside others, addressing both spiritual and practical needs. Intentional disciplers ask questions, listen actively, and offer support, guiding others as they grow into their new identity in Christ (new being) and express their faith meaningfully (new doing).

Expected Outcomes: This approach deepens relationships with Jesus and others, encourages spiritual maturity, and has a multiplying effect—disciples go on to make more disciples, impacting neighborhoods and communities. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, disciples integrate their new identity in Christ with their daily actions, fulfilling their calling with purpose.

Alignment: This principle aligns with Jesus' original design for discipleship, where one friend supports another's growth through deeply relational and transformative engagement. It re-centers Christian formation on both internal spiritual growth and outward expression in daily life and ministry.