



transform
discipleship mentoring

Obeying Christ... Making Disciples

“Go therefore and make disciples..”

Matthew 28:19

LEVEL ONE

ESTABLISH

Transformed Relationship

you and the local church



5

A Discipleship Ministry Resource Provided by
Faith Assembly of God

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Lesson 5

Your Place in the Local Church

Establishing Transformed Relationships

INTRODUCTION

What do the following have in common: A lone ranger, a one man show, a wandering sheep and a man “up the creek without a paddle?” Give Up? All these are pretty close descriptions of a disciple who, for one reason or another, refuses the blessing of living in right relationship with his or her brothers and sisters in Christ.

Let us not neglect our church meetings, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of His coming back again is drawing near. - Hebrews 10:25 (Living Bible) **M**

As followers of Jesus, we are part of an incredible and a spiritual family numbering in the hundreds of millions around the globe today. We refer often to the people of God as the Body of Christ, or the Local church.

The body of Christ is made up of people who are born again believers (**Read John 3:3**) and who have been saved by the blood of Jesus.

They have been join to Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit (**Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-14**) to fulfill the task of proclaiming the good news of the gospel (**Read 1 Peter 2:9-10**).

Jesus gave to the believer the authority of His name and the power of the Holy Sprit (**Read... Mark 16:17-18 & Acts 1:8**) so that on His behalf, we may be involved in the establishment of the Kingdom of God here on earth, which Christ began.

All disciples of Jesus are UNITED in this task with each disciple having a part to play (**Read Romans 12:4-5**). Each of us need to work together as a body of many members with Christ as the head.

Our loyalty as true disciples is first to Christ our Savior and to the worldwide church then to the local church where He has planted us. All of us believers obviously cannot gather in together at one time, so God has ordained that we meet together in smaller groups in a local church.

Unity is an absolute to maintain the health of the body of Christ. There must be recognition, coordination, and cooperation for the members to be in good health and be what God intended the body to be (**Read Psalm 133**).

Key Truth: “Our attitude and commitment to our local church will reflect our attitude and commitment to its head, Jesus Christ.”

- Dr. Thomas Keinath D. Min



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“Called Out and Called To” Our Service & Commitment to the local church

Our real attitude to Christ Jesus is seen by our attitude to His body, the church (**Read 1 John 4:20**). A life of service to God is the most fulfilling life there is, because we are created by God to serve Him. The body of Christ can only grow when each member functions as he or she should. This will require commitment! Then the body of Christ will truly be the expression of Jesus on earth (**Read Ephesians 4:16**).

We need to ask the question “What can I put into the body?” and not always ask, “What can I get out of this?” We need to give unselfishly of ourselves (**Read 2 Corinthians 8:5**). The way it really works, sounds more like this - “Those who put in the most get the most out of the commitment.”

We should be committed to:

The proclamation of the gospel and making disciples (**Matthew 28:19-20**)

Faithful Attendance to the gathering of the people of God (**Read Hebrews 10:25**)

Giving and Supporting God’s Kingdom Financially with our Tithes (**Read Malachi 3:8-10**)

Supporting and Praying for our Leaders (**Read Romans 13:1-2 & 1 Peter 2:13-14**)

The Ministry of H.E.L.P.S / Practical Service in our local church (**Read 1 Corinthians 12**)
Helping Edifying Loving Praying and Serving

The Ministry of Helps is a distinct ministry listed with many other ministry gifts in **1 Corinthians 12:28**. We must recognize that it is a uniquely anointed, and an appointed ministry.

Let’s begin our Greek study with reference to Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible. The greek word translated “helps,” used in **1 Corinthians 12:28** is the word, “*antilepsis*,” meaning “relief,” according to Strong. It comes from a root word, “*antilambanomai*,” meaning, “succor; also to participate,” and is translated as “help,” “partaker,” and “support” in the King James Version. “Helps” is, therefore, a ministry of lending relief and support. Notice that the thought of participation is integral to the root word, “*antilambanomai*,” of this word, “*antilepsis*.” “Helps” is a “participating” in the support of the ministry.

I encourage each of you to prayerfully ask God where you can participate in the Ministry of helps. There are many ways to serve the Lord and to be involved at Faith Assembly. The key is to “just do it.” Resolve to get involved now in the “HELPS ministry.”

Have a blessed day! - Pastor John

The “Vital Signs” of a Healthy Church

Since the church is described in Scripture as a living body of believers, we may also by analogy find “*vital signs*” which indicate the health of the local church. Here’s a few.

1. **Fervent Prayer:** (Read Acts 4:31 & Acts 12:5)

Just as the operation of the entire human body is dependent on the brain, so the Church also must hear from God. Through the power of prayer, people will see lives transformed. Prayer helps us connect with God’s heart and to obtain that which is word promises. A church built on prayer will experience transformed situations, changed lives and a closer walk with God.

2. **Mutual Cooperation:** (Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

In a healthy Church each part is an outgrowth of our communion with Christ and with each other. Every part though different must be treated and accepted as essential and as important. Just like each part of our body.

3. **Dynamic Growth:** (Read Acts 2:47 & Acts 5:14)

As a pattern for the church of all ages, the Early Church exhibited both spiritual and numerical growth as not only a model but an indicator that the local congregation was fulfilling its mission. Anything alive will naturally grow!

4. **Faithful Stewardship:** (Read Malachi 3:8-10, & 2 Corinthians 8:1-7)

God has chosen the mission of the church (reaching the lost, discipling new believers, edifying the saints, and a life of worship to God) to involve the *investment* of His people. This is more than a matter of money. It involves the giving of our **Time**, **Talent** and our **Treasure**. All of these are gifts from God and for the purpose of *investing* into his kingdom (the fulfillment of the mission). God entrusted us with our skills and ability, health and time and our money. When a disciple’s heart beats with God’s heart, giving of our time, talent and treasure to reach souls and meet the needs of people will be view as a great opportunity.

5. **Intentional Discipleship:** (Read Matthew 28:19-20 & 1 Corinthians 11:1)

The Holy Spirit is very faithful to do His work of birthing people into the Kingdom of God. Intentional discipleship and mentoring calls infants into spiritual maturity. The greatest investment you as a disciple can make, apart from being a follower of Jesus Christ is to invite someone else to follow you as you follow the Lord together. God does his part and we must do ours.

Unity in the Church is Essential

If we are going to have unity, we must recognize and receive the ministry of others. This is what the entire body of Christ is all about. The following is a scriptural outline of what our relationship is to be to one another in the body of Christ if we want to minister effectively as a body. Therefore, in order to minister as a body:

1. We must recognize that we are members one of another.

(Read: Romans 12:4-5, 1 Corinthians 6:15 & 12:7-12, 1 Corinthians 10:17, Ephesians 4:16,25 & 5:30)

2. We must be at peace with one another

(Read: Mark 9:50, Matthew 5:23, 1 Thessalonians 5:13)

A BODY THAT IS AT PEACE :

- Does not hold grudges (Read James 5:9 & 1 Peter 4:9)
- Does not speak evil (gossip will kill body ministry) (Read James 4:11)
- Does not esteem one member higher than another
(Read 1 Timothy 5:21 & 1 Corinthians 12:25)
- Does not judge another harshly (Read Romans 2:1 & Romans 14:13)

3. We must seek the interest of the other member of the body and not be self centered.

- We must honor each other (Read Romans 12:10, Philippians 2:3-4 & 1 Peter 5:5)
- We must not be puffed up thinking our ministry is greater than others
(Read 1 Corinthians 4:6-7)
- We must bear (hold the weight of) one another's burdens (Read Galatians 6:2)
- We must be considerate of one another (Read Hebrews 10:24-25, Ephesians 5:33)

4. We must always seek to strengthen other members

(Read Ephesians 4:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, & Romans 14:19, & 15:5-6)

When all these things are in order, we are then ready to minister to others as the body of Christ.

- We can exhort one another (Read Hebrews 3:13, Hebrews 10:25)
- We can admonish one another (Read Romans 15:14, Colossians 3:16)
- We can have true compassion one for another (Read 1 Peter 3:8)
- We can comfort one another (Read 1 Thessalonians 4:18 & 2 Corinthians 1:4)
- We can pray for one another (Read James 5:16)

The body of Christ functions best when every member of the body is doing what God has called him or her to do. If God has put us in the body, we have a place of ministry.

(Read Romans 12:6-8)

Understanding Authority and Submission in the Local Church

1. **Jesus Christ is Lord and is “Head” of the church.**
(Read Ephesians 1:22-23 & Matthew 28:18)

God has given all authority in Heaven and on earth to Jesus and He in turn, delegates His authority to spiritually qualified leaders in His church. Any authority these leaders have is a “given” authority and, therefore, they should work in the church as servants, leading by example and not lording it over the flock (Read 1 Peter 5:13).

2. **God requires us to obey our leaders and submit to them.**
(Read Hebrews 13:17 & 1 Timothy 5:17)

This does not mean a heavy submission where we obey everything our leaders say because we have no choice, but rather it is a submission arising out of a respect for the anointing and role of the leader's place and responsibility before God. The church people should listen and act upon the leader's guidance because they hear, recognize, and submit to the spoken “Word of God” in their leaders guidance. God will guide his people through the pastor and teacher that He has gifted the church with (Read Ephesians 4:11-17).

3. **Submission is an attitude of heart, not a position of slavery.**

To submit means to voluntarily place ourselves under the care, protection, and guidance of our leaders (Read Hebrews 13:17). Members of the church cannot be forced to do any thing. However, when there is recognition of true spiritual authority within a leader, those who under that authority will willingly submit. This submission also brings great blessing because those under authority find that they in turn receive authority (Read Matthew 8:9).

4. **The church is not a democratic institution. It is not “the rule of the people.” The church is a theocracy - “the rule of God through His appointed authorities.” The highest authority in the local church is “the Pastor.”**

It is because there has been that lack of checks and balances on the leadership over the years that the democratic system of church government arose. So, instead of government coming down from God through His leadership to the people, the people have taken government into their own hands with the goal of maintaining control and accountability.

When a person decides to rebel against God's spiritual authority, which is clear in God's word not to do, it is going against God. That person has removed themselves from **“under the protection”** of that authority and now becomes a target of attack from the enemy of their souls.

A book I highly recommend is **“UNDER COVER”** by John Bevere. This book is a teaching from the Bible on spiritual authority and will restore a trusted faith in those who have been the victims of spiritual abuse.

Have a blessed day and know that the leadership of Faith Assembly love you all! - PJ

What to expect when visiting Faith Assembly of God

Music - Music is a major feature of our worship, before, during and even after the service itself. Instruments may range from piano and organ to synthesizers, guitars, horns and drums, to full-scale orchestras. Whatever the accompaniment, inspired singing is the order of the day. Any given service may include traditional hymns, hand-clapping gospel songs, contemporary compositions or reverent worshipful choruses.

Music will include both congregational and special ministries — solos, duets, ensembles, choirs, instrumentals. Assemblies of God churches make music more than a performance; it's the music of worship.

Worship experience - The service may include quiet times of waiting in God's presence, spiritually savoring the sacred atmosphere. Other times may be vocal with collective praise as worshippers are invited to spontaneously express love and adoration to God. In everything, a flow of worship should be evident and, despite the spontaneity and excitement, a certain properness and order.

Worship styles will reflect the spectrum of personalities. Some are quiet and reserved; some shout with joy; others are simply tender and openly emotional during times of praise or preaching. No sincere worshipper need feel out of place in an Assemblies of God church. And each expression will blend without disruption into the flow of worship.

Prayer - A special time in the service is devoted to prayer. Needs from inside and outside the church family frequently are made known. The congregation prays together. All may pray aloud but conclude with a single voice, the worship leader or other designated person praying in behalf of all.

Ministry to the sick - As in the New Testament, specific prayer may be offered for the sick. They will be invited forward to be anointed with oil (**Read James 5:13-16**) and/or have the ministers, leaders or other believers lay hands on them and pray (**Read Mark 16:18**).

Continue on next page.



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What to expect when visiting Faith Assembly of God (continued)

Giving - During the service, tithes and offerings will be received. More than a collection to pay church bills, this too is worship. Our members feel giving the tithe **(the first tenth of income, read Malachi 3:8-10)** and offerings declares that God comes first. It recognizes His blessing, expresses faith and seeks His guidance in every matter in life. The ministries of the local church and globe-encircling work of the Assemblies of God are supported solely by free-will giving. However, visitors need not feel obligated to give.

Spiritual Gifts in Operation - An interesting and distinctive aspect of Assemblies of God worship is the operation of spiritual gifts. The planned service order may be suspended as individuals speak or share as prompted by the Holy Spirit, under the supervision of the pastor **(Read 1 Corinthians 12-14)**.

One may speak out in an unknown tongue, a Spirit-guided language other than that of the congregation. Another individual, or perhaps the same one, will then give the interpretation. On occasion, the Spirit may prompt someone to speak out, to prophesy, in the language of the congregation. The gift of prophecy, the gift of tongues and the gift of interpretation, and other spiritual gifts bring the church immediate challenge and confirm Bible truths.

Challenging messages - The climax of the service comes with the preaching of God's Word, the Bible, and an invitation for hearers to respond. The messages are fervent, inspiring and practical. The pastor or speaker may close with an invitation for those who need forgiveness in their lives to come forward and accept Christ as Savior.

Those who feel a need to rededicate their lives to Christ or to pray about other concerns are also invited to come. Believers are urged to ask God for the baptism in the Holy Spirit to further empower them for Christian service. Often everyone is invited to come pray during the altar service. Deep emotion and excitement may or may not be demonstrated at the altars, but everyone who calls on God in faith receives something.

So, when you come to church, come expecting. Expect a move of God not only in the service, but also in your life. We think you'll agree that the comfort, help and strength God gives are better experienced than explained.

Have a blessed day and I'll see you in church!

Come expecting! - Pastor John

Review Questions - Lesson 5

1. According to Hebrews 10:25, what are we not to neglect? p.37

2. Explain the *greek* meaning of the word “helps” and how it applies to you as a believer? p. 38

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3. What is the greatest investment you can make as a disciple? p.39

4. What 4 actions on our part must we practice in order to maintain peace in the body of Christ? p.40

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5. Aside from the fact that Jesus Christ is the head of the church, who holds the highest place of authority in the local church? p.41

6. Complete the sentence: p.42

Worship styles will reflect the spectrum of _____.

7. List a few distinctive aspects of a typical church service in the Assemblies of God where the gifts of the spirit are in operation? p.43

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