

CHURCH PLANT STICKY TEAMS

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- I. To have a disciple-making church, we must have:
 - A. A biblical concept of disciple-making.
 - B. A long-range perspective
 - C. A healthy leadership and ministry team
- II. A Biblical Concept of Disciple-Making
 - A. A disciple is a follower, apprentice, learner, and/or pupil
 - B. The two biggest obstacles to Biblical discipleship in our churches today:
 1. Confusing discipleship with leadership
 2. Redefining discipleship so that only “front-of-the-line” Christians qualify
 - C. Jesus’ primary discipleship metric was obedience
 1. Do we KNOW Him? – 1 John 2:3-5
 2. Do we LOVE Him? – John 14:15
 3. The Great Commission – Matthew 28:19-20
 4. Think of the “Cobbler in Corinth” concept
- III. A Long-Range Perspective
 - A. The “Sticky-Church” paradigm is not primarily about church growth
 1. It’s about church health
 2. It’s about fulfilling the second half of the Great Commission
 - a) i.e., if we reach people but don’t keep them, we’ll never be able to disciple them
 3. It’s about creating a community where the crowd becomes the church
 - a) i.e., living out the “one another” commands of Scripture
 - b) i.e., be on mission with each other inside your church before trying to be on mission with others outside your church
 - B. Assimilation is not retention!
 1. Assimilation gets people to come back
 - a) It focuses on new people
 - b) Its goal is participation in a program or group
 2. Retention happens when people “stick” to each other
 - a) It focuses on everyone
 - b) Its goal is to develop long-term relationships
 - c) e.g., most people don’t leave churches because their friends are there
 - d) i.e., the stickiest glue is always close friendships!
 - C. Friendliness is not connection!
 1. People don’t want a “friendly church” – they want friends!
 2. People are like Legos – they are made to be connected
 3. Nothing is more frustrating than friendliness that never connects
 4. If people say your church is full of cliques, it most likely means your church is friendly but not connecting
 5. Whenever possible, create new groups for new people
 - D. Don’t just count numbers – count faces!
 1. Numbers can hide a revolving door until it’s too late
- IV. Healthy Leadership & Ministry Teams
 - A. Without a healthy team everything will eventually implode
 - B. Winning teams have winning players; losing teams have gifted players
 - C. Consider the factors for career success and derailment based on a 30 year study of Fortune 500 and European companies:
 1. The two common factors of career success among employees were
 - a) Ability to adapt – willing and good at making mid-course corrections (1 Cor 9:19-27; Luke 5:36-39; Acts 6)
 - b) Strong relationship skills – ability to “play well in the sandbox” (1 Cor 13:1-8; Rev 2:1-7)
 2. The two common factors of career derailment among employees were
 - a) Inability to adapt – resistance to mid-course corrections
 - b) Poor relationship skills – inability to “play well in the sandbox”