



Jon Rittenhouse, ThM | November 17, 2024
Shift?! Dispositions and Desires of a Disciple-Maker
Philippians 1:1-11

DiscipleShift: It is not about accumulating believers but deploying reproducing disciples

*"Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, to **all** the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons; grace to you and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ."*

A. What are Paul's Dispositions as a Disciple-Maker?

*"I thank my God in **all** my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your **participation** in the gospel from the first day until now."* (1:3-5)

Paul as a disciple-maker reflected four dispositions ...

1. Thankful Reflection! (1:3) Why? (1:5)

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you ... in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now." [What type of participation? Financial]

Story: Brad, my first financial investor in my ministry which started the summer of 1978.

Apply: A Disciple Maker who asks others to invest in them financially.
Are we giving to men and women who are involved in disciple-making?

2. Consistent joyful prayer! (1:4)

*"I thank my God in **all** my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all"* (1:3-4)

Story: Chinese brothers that I disciple

Apply: Is there a disciple that you consistently and joyfully pray for?
Who do you consistently and joyfully pray for?

3. Hold disciples close to your heart. (1:7)

"For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart..."

Apply: Whom do you hold close to your heart? Not just friends or family, but disciples.

4. Intense affection for disciples. (1:8)

*"For God is my witness, how I **long** for you all with the **affection** of Christ Jesus."* (1:8)

Story: My most beloved brother in the whole world: MaDi

Apply: Who do you have intense godly affection towards?

Four dispositions of a Disciple-Maker

1. Thankful reflection about your disciple. (1:3)
2. Consistent joyful prayer for your disciple. (1:4)
3. Hold disciples close to your heart. (1:7)
4. Intense affection for your disciple. (1:8)

B. Desires of the Disciple-Maker

1. That your disciple would continue to give financially to missions (1:6)

"For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect (future, active, indicative) it until the day of Christ Jesus." (1:6)

2. Disciples would experience the fellowship of Grace (1:7)

"For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me." (1:7)

3. Disciples should abound in love that has full knowledge and all discernment. (1:9) Why?

"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in full knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Christ, to the glory and praise of God." (1:9-11)

- a. Approve the things that are excellent. (1:10) Why?
- b. To be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ. (1:10) Result?
- c. Having been filled with fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus. (1:11) Why?
- d. To the glory and praise of God. (1:11)

Desires of the Disciple-Maker for their disciples:

1. My disciples would continue to give financially to the mission of the Gospel. (1:6)
2. My disciples would experience the fellowship of grace. (1:7)
3. My disciples would abound in love that has full knowledge and all discernment.
4. My disciples would approve the things that are excellent. (1:10)
5. My disciples would be sincere and blameless until Christ returns. (1:10)
6. My disciples would be filled with the fruit of righteousness. (1:11)
7. My disciples who do this for the glory and praise of God. (1:11)

Let's not just build numbers at Trinity but Deploy Reproducing Disciples!

Five Steps for Deploying People (Book: DiscipleShift)

1. Develop a Biblical Vision of Trinity Church Discipleship
2. Create a Common Language of Trinity Discipleship
3. Develop further the disciple-making process at Trinity
4. Live out the Disciple-making vision with prayer and humility
5. Continue to assess, correct the process, and encourage one another