

The Community of the Transformed – Discipleship!

Message #3

by Bishop Richard Snyder

Listening/Discussion Guide by Peggy Riley



DVD LISTENING GUIDE KEY

- A. The world in which we live today is vastly different from the past
1. The crunch point is not that **SOCIETY** is secular; it's that the **CHURCH** has become secular. Are we paying attention to what's happening?
 2. How has this happened? We've focused on the **LOVE** of God so much that it has been watered down into extreme **TOLERANCE**. Until we recover the message that **GOD** is holy and His **LOVE** is holy, and that **WE** are to be holy as He is holy, we will continue to slip into a secular religiosity with no **POWER** and little **LIGHT**.
 3. We are called to **BE** disciples and we are called to **MAKE** disciples of Jesus Christ, the Creator and Sustainer of the world and all that is in it.
- B. How are disciples made?
1. **We are to be personal SAMPLES**, following Jesus Christ and praying to have a heart like our Father's (I Timothy, chapters 4, 5, 2).
Three patterns to help form our daily lives:
 - **REPENTENCE:** God is desperate to get to the core of our being, peeling away anything destructive or unwholesome (James 4:7, 9, 10)
 - **SUBMISSION:** Deference to God, to those in authority, and to one another is a characteristic of a sanctified heart delivered from self-interest (Eph. 5:21; Heb. 12; Col. 3:15; Rom. 6:22; Heb. 13:17)
 - **DISCIPLINE:** An intentional focus upon the practices of prayer, fasting, studying and stewardship will provide an anchor for living in our secularized society (I Tim. 6:11-12; I Cor. 9:24-27)
 2. **We need a simple discipleship SYSTEM** which helps us bear fruit, where new believers are brought to maturity, and then they reproduce that pattern by leading others to the Lord and discipling them.
 - Most pastors and lay leaders are functioning in the frustrating system of church **PROGRAMMING**, and over the course of time, programs breed indifference
 - There's help for us if we are willing to adjust our focus and change our practice to **MULTIPLYING** disciples.
 3. **We need to gather a few STUDENTS** who are eager to learn and serve and obey and advance the cause of Christ, and pour our lives into them.
 - Focus upon 2 or 3, guiding them to be **DISCIPLES** of Jesus (addition)
 - Help them to also become **DISCIPLERS** for Christ (multiplication)

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1. The crunch point is not that _____ is secular; it's that the _____ has become secular. Are we paying attention to what's happening?
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 - Most pastors and lay leaders are functioning in the frustrating system of church _____, and over the course of time, programs breed indifference
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GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Discuss the **SECULARIZATION** of **SOCIETY** and **CHURCH**:

What do you think has contributed to the grim statistics provided below?

- 2.7 million people are leaving the church annually
- 3,500 churches are closing each year
- Our nation has a diminishing regard for the Bible with each generation:

Builders (born 1927 – 1945)	65%	Bible based believers
Boomers (born 1946 – 1964)	35%	Bible based believers
Busters (born 1965 – 1983)	16%	Bible based believers
Bridgers / millennials (born after 1984)	4%	Bible based believers
- By 2040, 40% of the population will be Muslim
- Currently 88% kids raised in Christian homes do not stay in church after high school

Looking at your church over a span of several years, what are some of the . . .

- Disturbing ways the attitudes and actions of your congregation have changed?
- Good ways the attitudes and actions of your congregation have changed?

2. Discuss being **SAMPLES** of God's heart

What motivates you to live a more holy life?

Which one of the three patterns Bishop Snyder mentioned do you struggle with MORE or LESS at this present time?

3. Discuss a simple discipleship **SYSTEM**

As no one "accidentally comes to Christ"

- To whom are you personally being an intentional witness?
- What is your church doing to provide easy ways for others to grow in their faith?

What might some of the differences be in a system which not only focuses upon personal discipleship, but which also helps the disciple to become a discipler?

4. Discuss gathering a few **STUDENTS**

Has anyone ever come alongside you to personally disciple or mentor you?

- If so, what did they do and how did this relationship help you?
- If not, what difference could such a relationship have made for you?

Identify 1 – 3 individuals you might make yourself available to and invest in