

Years later I am still continually adjusting the relationships in my life. Being a disciple is a life-long process. You don't fix relationships, you adjust them! I now monitor my relationships like I monitor the gauges on the dashboard of my car. The Great Commandment has given me a grid to help evaluate my level of "being." I have discovered that being a disciple of Christ requires life-long learning. I am committed to growing in my relationships in life as long as I live.

Learning to "be" a disciple has changed what I "do" as a disciple. My *doing* has a very different meaning. I now do things for Christ out of the overflow of my *being* with Christ. It is amazing how much more fun and fulfilling it is to do things for Christ when you are rightly related to Him!

STUCK OR GROWING?

If you are not living life the way God designed it, you have a choice. You can remain stuck in your current situation or you can grow out of it. God's Word is filled with life-changing principles for living as a disciple of Christ.

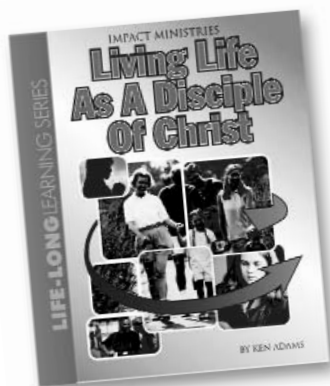
Impact Ministries wants to help you grow past your current level of frustration. We have developed a growth resource to serve as a tool for your relational development. The Life-Long Learning resource, called ***Living Life as a Disciple of Christ***, is a twelve-week study that will walk you through the major relational principles for all of life's significant relationships.

Why not make the commitment to learn what it means to "be" a disciple of Christ? Take some time to grow and learn how you can live in right relationships. Order this resource today. A life of peace and joy is ready for the taking.

NEW RELEASE!

LIVING LIFE AS A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

This brand new edition of the 12-week study, formerly known as "***Beginning the Impact Life***," is a great tool for learning how to be rightly related to God, self, and others. **\$20.00**



For more information contact:



2564 Highway 154
Newnan, GA 30265
770-254-0291
www.impactdiscipleship.com

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LIVING LIFE AS A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST



by Ken Adams

I grew up in a great church. One which created an environment that helped me lay a solid foundation for spiritual growth. I have fond memories of the church environment where I spent most of my growing up years. However, looking back, there is one thing I realize about that church I did not notice then. The church I grew up in focused more on getting people to "do," than helping people to "be."

Today, I am more aware than ever that the tension between *being* and *doing* is a problem affecting many churches. I'm finding that my church experience was more the norm than the exception.

The fact that so many churches focus more on *doing* than *being* should not take us by surprise. Every church has needs and it is easy to fall into the trap of thinking the goal is to reach people to help meet the needs. Many times I have seen a person come to church, receive Christ, and then immediately be recruited to serve in ministry. Finding a place to serve is not the problem. Serving is an important part of spiritual growth. However, being told to “do” without also being told to “be” is a recipe for disaster. I’ve seen countless numbers of believers burn out, drop out, and cop out because they were led to *do* without being led to *be*!

TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

Living your life as a disciple of Christ is first and foremost more about *being* something than it is about *doing* something. When you come to faith in Jesus Christ, God wants you to “be” His disciple. God wants you to be His disciple by being rightly related in the significant relationships of your life.

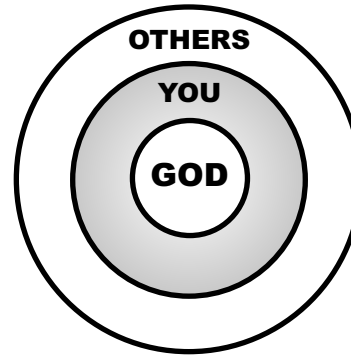
When someone asked Jesus what the greatest law was, Jesus responded with the following, “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the Prophets hang on these two commands.*” Jesus is saying you can sum up all the law and the prophetic teachings into three relationships. God wants you to be rightly related to Him, to yourself, and to others. In a nutshell, God wants you to live your life as a disciple of Christ by being rightly related to God, you, and others.

RELATING OR NOT RELATING?

I believe the reason Jesus summed up all the law and prophetic teachings into three relationships is simply because relationships are all that last. If you think about it, all that lasts in eternity

will be God, you, and everybody else. None of your stuff and accomplishments will mean anything in eternity. Living as a disciple of Christ simply means living in right relationships – beginning now and lasting throughout eternity.

Life’s relationships can best be described using the concept of concentric circles. Think of your relationship with God, you, and others as circles that all build upon each other.



The first and most important relationship in your life is your relationship with God. Your relationship with God is the center circle and all other relationships are impacted by how you relate to Him. God’s desire is that you know Him and live rightly related to Him.

The second most important relationship in life is your relationship with you. How you relate to you is based on how you relate to God and how you relate to you affects how you relate to others. God’s desire is that you will see yourself the way God sees you.

The relationships you have with others in your life can actually be divided into three specific relational areas. You have relationships with your family. You have relationships with your church family or other believers and you have relationships with non-believers, the human family. How you relate to God and to yourself will greatly impact how you relate to others. God wants you to live in harmony in each of these relational areas of your life.

ORDER OR CHAOS?

The relational circles in our lives can either be characterized as ordered or chaotic. You don’t have to look very far to find folks whose relational circles are chaotic. Instead of nice, orderly circles, their relationships look like a tangled spider’s web. These people are very frustrated and stressed out ninety percent of the time. On the other hand, you occasionally come across someone who is living in right relationships. They seem to be characterized as peaceful and joyful rather than frustrated and stressed out. With this in mind, it seems fairly obvious that God’s will is that we live our lives in right relationships. He wants us to “be” His disciples.

I know firsthand the frustration and stress that comes from not living in right relationships. As a young pastor, I once was so busy “doing” things for God that I was not “being” much with God. Not being rightly related to God whacked out the other relationships in my life as well. I was not being the me I was called to be. I was not being the husband I should be. I was not being the church member I wanted to be and I was not being the neighbor I know God wanted me to be. I was doing plenty of stuff for God, but I was not being a disciple who loved God and others as myself.

Like ripples in a pond, my relational circles told the true story of my life. The lack of time I made for connecting with non-Christians said something about my relationship with God. My lack of understanding God’s role for me as a husband affected my relationship with my wife. Each relationship in my life revealed another layer of my relational dysfunction.

I thank God He finally showed me what being a disciple really is. He engineered events in my life to show me the importance of living in right relationships. As I began righting my relationship with God, it was amazing how that rippled an impact into the other relationships in my life.