



Warren's Equipping Strategy

Guiding Passage Concerning the Purpose of the Local Church and Discipleship:

*"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." - **Ephesians 4:11-16***

Who are we equipping? - The Saints—those who have been called and set apart by God, living under the Lordship of Christ to participate in the Great Commission. It is with these equipped believers the church will be built up and the gospel will be carried to our community and ultimately the world.

How are we equipping? - By increasing in the knowledge of the Son of God, by teaching sound doctrine, by teaching how to discern truth from error, by speaking truth in love, and by building each other up in love.

How does Warren define Discipleship?

Discipleship is multifaceted and takes many shapes and forms. At its essence, it is: Christians learning how to think, feel, and act like Christ.

Biblical Examples:

- Titus 2:4 — Older women are to train younger women.
- 2 Timothy 2:2 — Paul trained Timothy to train others to train others.
- Ephesians 6:4 — Fathers are to train their children.
- Matthew 28:20 — Missionaries are to teach the nations everything Jesus commanded.

- Hebrews 3:13 — All Christians are to exhort each other every day to avoid sin and to stir each other up to love and good works (see also Hebrews 10:24–25).
- 1 Peter 4:10 — All Christians are to use their gifts to serve others.
- Acts 18:24–26 — Priscilla and Aquila explained the way of God more accurately to Apollos.

What is the desired biblical outcome for every believer? - For every believer to seek spiritual growth in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, to become more like Jesus; adopting His heart and character through daily encounters with Him (sanctification)—Each person sharing in the responsibility to build the body up in truth and love through discipleship multiplication (disciples who make disciples).

We want every believer to:

KNOW - (Worldview and Faith)

- What is the Gospel - Good news that God made a way for sinners to be brought into right relationship with Him through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus
- What is God's mission - God's redemptive plan to draw individuals to himself by making gospel message known
- What is a Disciple - the one who carries out God's redemptive plan BY sharing the gospel message

BE - (The Spirit's Work of Formation)

- Committed to pray - apart from Him we can do nothing - so we rely on Him in everything
- Committed to growing - fruit bearing is a process - daily watering and pruning must take place
- Committed to learn - we are called to grow in our knowledge of the Son and of God's will for our lives so we can walk in it - learning helps both

DO - (The Outflow of Serving and Engaging Others)

- Live on mission - function as the extended body of Christ where Christ has placed you
- Share the gospel - boldly tell others of the hope you have because of Jesus
- Equip others - help others learn how to share the gospel and walk in the same boldness
- Give - of time, resources, and self for the kingdom
- Serve - one another and your neighbor regularly - by doing, praying, encouraging

Guiding Passage Concerning Sanctification for Every Believer:

***Put to death** therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*

Put on then**, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. - **Colossians 3:1-17

Sinclair Ferguson concerning sanctification:

"To Sanctify' means that God repossesses persons and things that have been devoted to other uses, and have been possessed for purposed other than his glory, and takes them into his own possession in order that they may reflect his own glory."

"Our growth in sanctification is a peculiar combination of growing stronger in the Lord while also growing smaller – more reliant, more surrendered, more emptied of ourselves. He must increase, but I must decrease - John 3:30." - Jenna Carrick

The pattern for personal growth:

- The pursuit of Holiness
- Killing Sin
- Growing in grace
- Motivation

The means for personal growth:

- Spiritual Disciplines
- Suffering
- Community

How does Warren seek to equip the local body?

We equip the body by developing a Great Commission/Discipleship culture. Rather than outsourcing discipleship, we have created an "in-house" education hub, fueled by our own leaders, that creates intentional pathways for every individual to grow in the knowledge of Christ. This hub not only provides discipleship pathways for believers but also creates a pipeline of leaders for ministry advancement and future multiplication. Mature believers move from attenders to teachers/leaders, advancing Warren's mission of making disciples and multiplying disciple makers. All of the four pillars listed below function together to aid in equipping the saints for the work of the ministry.

Below are the 4 pillars that support our EQUIP strategy:

Core Discipleship:

- Example: [Foundations Classes](#), [Men/Women's Bible studies](#)

- Outcome: Establishes biblical fundamentals in the lives of believers so that they may know God and experience Him through the Scriptures (establishes culture / identifies new leaders)

Community Discipleship:

- Example: [Life Groups](#), [Joy Club](#)

- Outcome: Allows individuals to experience the love of God through the lives of others and the crucible of community.

Life-on-life Discipleship:

- Example: [D-Groups](#), [Mentorships](#)

- Outcome: Individuals experience spiritual growth through life-on-life discipleship and are equipped to replicate these discipleship relationships with others.

Legacy Discipleship:

- Example: [Warren Residency](#)

- Outcome: Individuals are trained and equipped to minister where God calls them for the greater Church and future generations

What are Warren's guiding principles for discipleship?

Within our teaching environments:

- ▲ **Truth:** A commitment to help people discern truth from error. Misguided truths lead to a misguided life. All studies need to be approved by a supervisor to protect and uphold truth.
- ▲ **Gospel:** A commitment to equip believers with the gospel. All gatherings need to incorporate sharing the gospel and give participants multiple opportunities to practice sharing the gospel before the group.
- ▲ **Participation:** A commitment to move people from reception to articulation. Participating in the Great Commission hinges on our ability and confidence to speak the truth in love. All gatherings need to include opportunities for attendees to speak their beliefs during the gatherings, encouraging dialogue at every opportunity.
- ▲ **Engagement:** A commitment to call people to something greater. This is not about keeping people, this is about forming people. All gatherings need to include assignments where participants engage with what they are learning (reading, writing, memorization, prayer, mission, etc.).
- ▲ **Accountability:** A commitment to holding people to their word. If you miss 30% of any class, the participant will be asked to leave. This is not leader preference; this is a church standard. Teaching people to keep their word and that their presence is important. [In environments where registration is required]
- ▲ **Active Learning Spaces:** A commitment to providing environments that are arranged for engagement. All of the core discipleship environments need to be done in circles (not rows). We want to create an active learning environment rather than a lecture environment.
- ▲ **Co-Leaders:** A commitment to cultivate new leaders. Every core discipleship gathering needs someone in training, a co-leader that will become a leader.
- ▲ **Leader Pre-Requisites:** A commitment to a standard for leaders. Anyone Warren considers a leader in a teaching capacity must be approved according to Warren's servant-leader covenant and have met with the ministry leader for approval.

On-Campus:

Core Discipleship:

1. Foundations Classes (Every Semester):

[Head] Bible (10wks)

- Teaching the story of the Bible
- Text: *Storyline of the Bible* by Vaughn Roberts

Beliefs (10wks)

- Teaching how to discern truth from error
- Texts: *You Are a Theologian* (Wilkin, English, Worley)
Everyone's a Theologian (R.C. Sproul)

Disciplines (10wks)

- Teaching how to apply the Gospel to your life
- Text: *Christ formed in You* by Brian Hedges

[Heart] How to Study the Bible? (5wk Lab)

- Teaching how to navigate the Bible
- Text: *Romans Journal*, *Study Bible/Commentary*

Deeds (10wks)

- An offsite missions-based partnership
- Text: *Life on Mission* (Willis, Coe)

Worldview (10wks)

- Teaching how to defend a biblical worldview in a broken world
- Text: *When Culture Hates You* (Crain)

2. Men/Women's Bible Studies (Ongoing):

- Men: Momentum/Brotherhood, etc.
- Women: Tues. AM Bible Study/Belong, etc.

Life-on-Life Discipleship:

D-Groups: 2 Options (all groups 2-5 people - gender specific)

Growing Up (Gallaty)

- Format: Book/Leader led
- Duration: 12-18mos

Romans Study Journal (ESV Study)

- Format: Card Prompts/Leader led
- Duration: 1 chapter/week = 16 weeks