

The Four Spheres of Life: Where to Grow

DiscipleShift, Session Four (Chap. 4)

SHIFT #1: FROM REACHING TO MAKING

Central questions: In what areas does a disciple need to grow? How are they related?

Understanding Your Vocation

Vertical: God calls you to Himself as His child.

Horizontal: God calls you into relationship with your neighbor (church/home/world).

Luther's Table of Duties (Small Catechism)

Spheres and Stages

"As a disciple abides in Christ, each sphere of his or her life is transformed." (p. 78)

"People grow at different speeds...there are seasons in a person's life when there is a strong desire to learn." (p. 79)

"Having appropriate _____ for each stage takes some of the pressure off you. It releases you from unrealistic goals and misguided attempts at defining success. It frees you to focus on helping the person grow right where they are at, as you tune in to where they are spiritually. When you set expectations in a way that matches the stage of growth, people can be genuine with you, sharing how they really feel and what they really want." (p. 80)

Sphere 1: The Centrality of a Relationship with God (Eph. 1-2)

John 15: Vine and Branches—the nature of abiding in Christ.

Begin with this sphere and return to it!

"This sphere is the _____, the hub that unites the other spheres together." (p. 85)

Sphere 2: Relationships within the Family of God, the Church (Eph. 4)

Being born again also means being part of a spiritual family. It's not just "Jesus and me"!

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Sphere 3: Relationships at Home (Eph. 5-6)

“The best place to make disciples is in our own families.” (p. 88)

“The most important place to focus is on our homes.” (p. 88)

Sphere 4: Relationships with the World (Eph. 6)

“Paul makes it clear that when we are in the world, we represent Christ, and in what we do, we do not simply work for other people; we work for the Lord. In this sense, our work affects God’s reputation.” (p. 89)

Spiritual Pointers

Expect resistance: spiritual _____ requires spiritual _____!

“Making disciples is not something we do in safe, neutral territory....Satan does not like to lose what he once owned.” (p. 90)

“To be like Jesus—that must become our obsession.” (p. 81) So is it?

Discussion/Application:

In light of the five stages of discipleship (the wheel), share a time you had unreasonable expectations for someone or for yourself.

“Relationship by itself is *not* discipleship, but it is a key to discipleship.” (RLD, p. 60) Why? What else is needed?

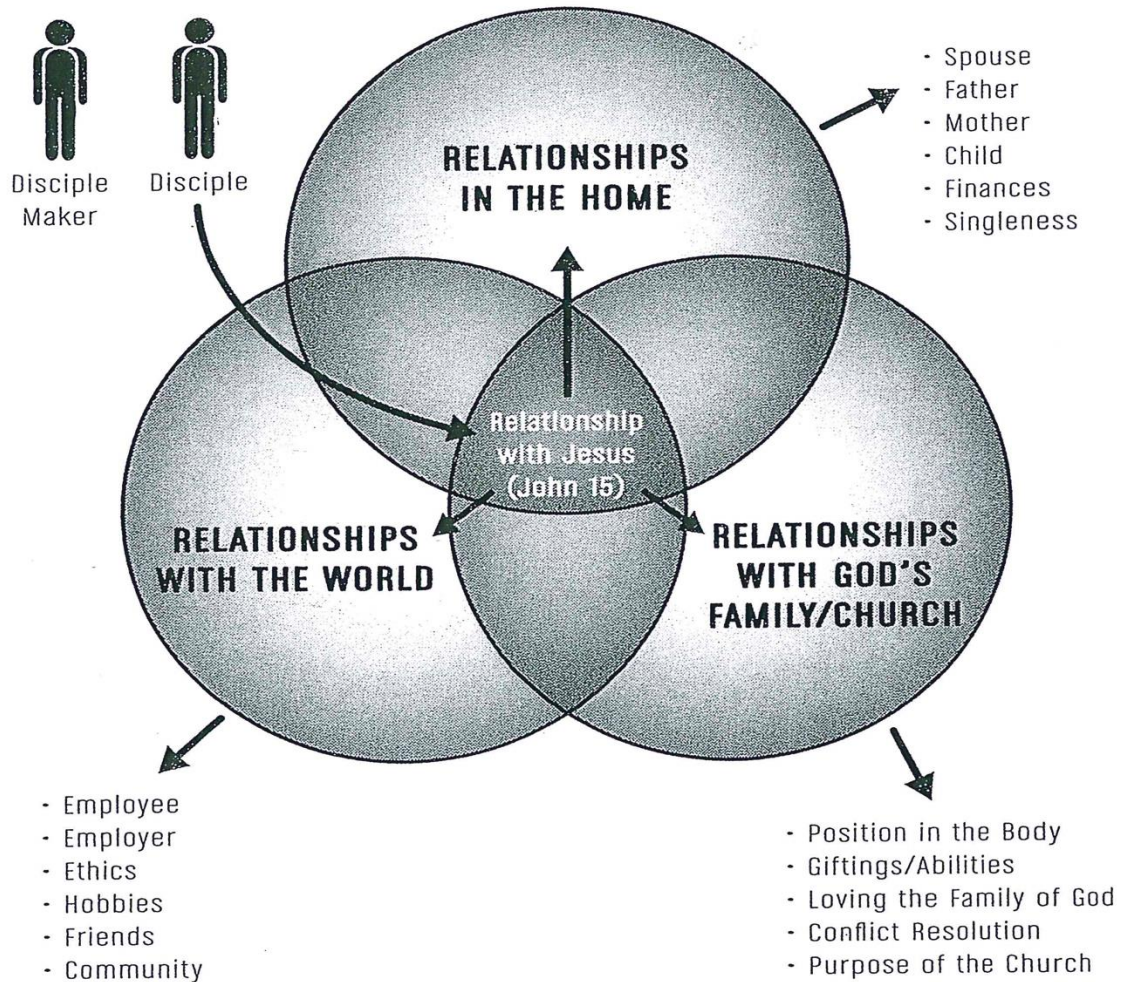
Rank (1-5) the following vocations in terms of importance:

____ spouse ____ employee ____ child of God ____ volunteer ____ parent

What would result if any sphere is omitted from the discipleship process?

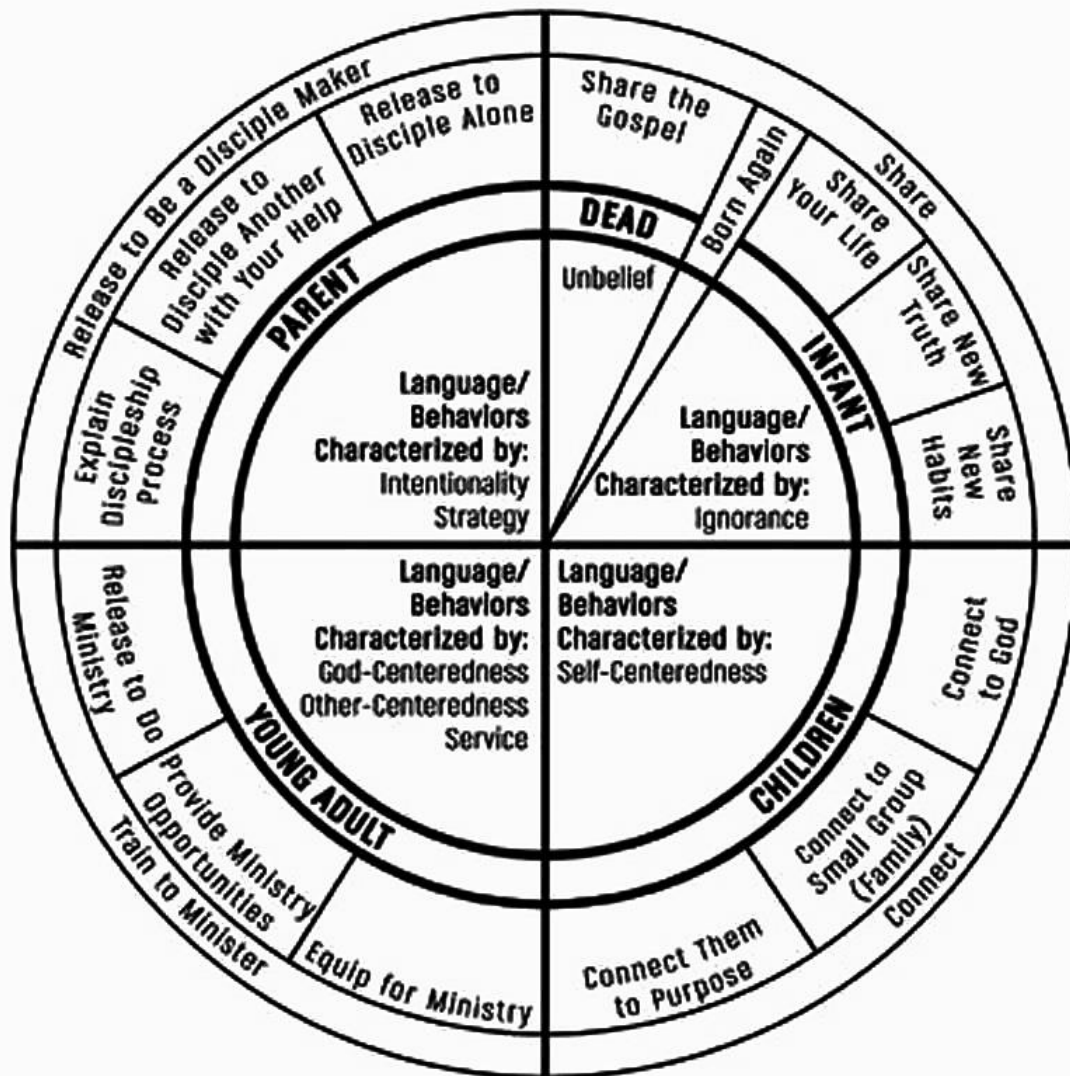
How does growing in Christ lead to a holistic, rather than compartmentalized, life?

What do you need in order to put each of their vocations under the Lordship of Christ and follow His lead?



The Four Spheres of Life

Source: *DiscipleShift*. Putman, Jim and Bobby Harrington with Robert Coleman. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.



The Five Stages of Discipleship

Source: *DiscipleShift*. Putman, Jim and Bobby Harrington with Robert Coleman. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.