

# Becoming an Equipped Christian Worker

The Village Organic Church Network

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We maintain that all Christian leaders should prioritize equipping Christian workers in order to build a culture of disciple-makers who are devoted to the ministry of building up the body of Christ. Paul clearly lays out the priority of equipping in Ephesians 4:

<sup>11</sup>And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>***equipping the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ***, <sup>13</sup>until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness. <sup>14</sup>Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. <sup>15</sup>But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ. <sup>16</sup>From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part.

Christian equipping is and should be thorough and rigorous. Some balk at this idea, insisting that thorough and rigorous equipping is unrealistic for modern busy people. We view such thinking as ludicrous and out of touch with the realities of God's purposes and the spiritual war being waged. Such thinking is ludicrous because it reveals a double-standard when thinking about secular and spiritual labors. In nearly every secular field of work, extensive training and learning is an unquestioned requirement. Most would not think of entrusting themselves to an untrained doctor. Few rational people would hire an untrained and unproven electrician to rewire their house. ***How much more should we expect thorough training and proven effectiveness from people claiming to speak for God and call others to follow Him!***

Within The Village, equipping is a multi-faceted and life-long process which includes the following:

- Studying God's Word and quality Christian literature, podcasts, teachings, etc.
- Participating as an engaged learner at quality Christian meetings:
  - Central Teaching
  - House Church
  - Cell Group
  - Strategic Retreats & Conferences
- Committing to ongoing personal discipleship with a faithful Christian worker

We also see value in utilizing quality equipping classes, and find a biblical basis for such classes in Acts 19:

<sup>8</sup>Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly over a period of three months, arguing and persuading them about the kingdom of God. <sup>9</sup>But when some became hardened and would not believe, slandering the Way in front of the crowd, he withdrew from them, taking the disciples, and conducted discussions every day in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. <sup>10</sup>This went on for two years, so that all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.

Below is the current Leadership Training Class (LTC) Plan of Study.



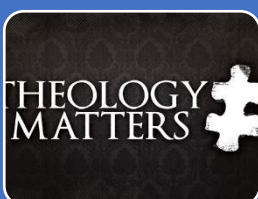
### LTC 1: THE BIBLE

- inspiration
- canonicity
- interpretation
- OT & NT
- personal prioritization of feeding on the Word



### LTC 2: APOLOGETICS

- evidential & presuppositional arguments & evidence
- evolution & creation
- world religions
- postmodernism
- learning to think critically



### LTC 3: SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

- attributes of God
- Christology
- Pneumatology
- Anthropology
- Satanology



### LTC 4: CHRISTIAN GROWTH PRINCIPLES

- sanctification vs. justification
- means of growth
- ethics & morality
- choosing to live as a disciple
- perseverance



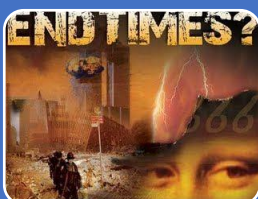
### LTC 5: ECCLESIOLOGY

- polity & authority
- ethos & character
- worship
- finances
- one-anothers



### LTC 6: CHRISTIAN MINISTRY PRINCIPLES

- God's part & our part
- evangelism, follow-up, & discipleship
- encouragement & admonition
- confidentiality & conferral
- teaching through guided discussion



### LTC 7: ESCHATOLOGY

- importance of studying prophecy
- critique of eschatological systems
- How will things play out? What can we know?
- "Therefore, encourage one another with these things."