



London Discipling Principles, Commands & Practicals

November 2009

“We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.”

Colossians 1:28 (NIV)

We believe in practicing the one another passages. This document outlines the principles and expected practices to develop a thriving culture of discipling relationships in the London church. The desire is to provide a framework within which the one another imperatives can be healthily practiced. These plans aim to ensure everyone is taken care of and to prevent confusion regarding discipling practices across the church.

The practices are expected to be the norm for most disciples most of the time. There will always be exceptions, and we pray that the Bible's commands and promises shine through the skeleton that is the practicals. We do not claim that there is only one effective way to practice the one another scriptures, but we believe a plan is needed so that, firstly, everyone is taken care of, and, secondly, that there is no confusion regarding expectations across the church in London.

Your brothers, the London Leadership Group: **Mark Akinlade, Paul Bateman, Malcolm Cox, Mike Desouza, Charles Elikwu, Adrian Hill, Barry Lamb, Jeremy Messervy, Phil Miller (ICCM chair), Mohan Nanjundan, Toks Sowoolu**

Biblical Principles and Commands

Opening our hearts up to one another: dealing with sin at the temptation level, confessing our sins to one another and praying for one another, *Heb 3:12-13, 12:14-17, James 5:16*

Helping one another to become more like Jesus Christ, *Col 1:28*

Honesty in relationships, *Eph 4:25*

Conflicts to be resolved with biblical scriptural principles, *Matt 18:15-35*

Sharpening one another to be our best for God, *Prov 27:17*

Assisting God's work in one another, *Eph 4:15*

Friendship and love in all relationships, *Jn 13:34-35*
Modes of relationship will vary, being sometimes teaching in style (*Matt 28:19, Rom 15:14, 1 Tim 4:6, Col 1:28, 3:16, Heb 5:12*), sometimes consultant in style (for example the book of Philemon) sometimes counseling in style (*Lk 11:5-6, 14:28-33, 15:4, 8, 17:7, Col 3:16*), but friendship will be constant.

Discipling relationships do not replace the individual's responsibility to live right before God, *Phil 2:12*

A healthy discipling relationship will be characterised by the following:

- Growing in humility towards one another, *Eph 4:2*
- Deepening friendship with one another, *1 Peter 1:22, Prov 20:5*
- Respecting one another, *Eph 5:21*
- Being sensitive with private information and respecting confidentiality where appropriate, *Prov 20:19*
- Commitment to help each other find strength in God, *1 Sam 23:16*

London Practicals

These seven practicals are our best effort at finding a way to implement the biblical principles and commands at this stage in the history of the London church. The practicals are not permanent.

- Practicing these Biblical principles and obeying these Biblical commands is one of the expectations of the members of the London church.
- We are expecting all members to be in a one-to-one and/or a small group discipling relationship, and to meet regularly.
- Each small group is to come up with its own behavioural "covenant" or ground-rules. It may be wise to seek advice from mature Christians in developing the "covenant".
- Each small group (usually 3-4 people) will probably find it helpful to have someone to "set the agenda" and, in that sense at least, to have a leader/facilitator.
- Members not currently in a discipling relationship or small group are encouraged to state their preference to their leadership team and work towards making these practicals a reality.
- If someone wants to be in a discipling relationship from a part of the church that is outside their local ministry, this is fine as long as they count the cost of travel and time commitment.
- It is the expectation that all leaders should teach these Biblical principles and model the above practices. Ongoing teaching and training in all aspects of discipling relationships will be provided for members of the London church.

DATES FOR DIARY

LINK EVENT AND PRETEEN & TEEN PARENTING EVENT

21 November 2009
Covent Garden
Dragon Hall Trust
17 Stukeley St
London WC2B 5LT
6pm - 8pm

CHURCHWIDE TEEN MEETING

29 November 2009
St Pancras Church Hall
Lancing St
London NW1 1NA
2.30pm - 4.30pm

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

13 December 2009
Friends House
10.30am - 12.30 noon

LINK PRETEEN CHRISTMAS PARTY

19 December 2009
Covent Garden
Dragon Hall Trust
6pm - 8pm

TEEN CHRISTMAS PARTY

20 December 2009
St Pancras Church Hall
2.30pm - 4.30pm

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.icoc.org.uk
www.iccm-events.info/
www.hopewww.org
www.disciplestoday.org
www.icochotnews.com