

# Coach's Corner



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## “Reproducing Reproducers”

In 2 Timothy 2:2 Paul instructs young Timothy with these words: “and the things you heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able also to teach others.” As Paul hits at the heart of what Timothy or other Christian leaders are called to do, we find a number of important principles for our own leadership approach.

First, Paul clarifies what we are to be about. It is not merely attending meetings or making decisions, it is about reproducing ourselves in others. Paul outlines four generations of Christian learning and growth. He writes of the truth which God had given to him and He passed on to Timothy (the first two generations). He then exhorts his young protégé to entrust these things to faithful men (third generation) who will be able to teach others (fourth generation). This is none other than Paul’s version of the call of Jesus to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). We are reminded in this short verse that we are to take the gospel truths we have been taught, we are to deposit them or entrust them to others who in turn will teach others. We are to reproduce Christ-like, God-glorifying, gospel-shaped life and ministry in other believers. Yet, that process is not complete until they become reproducers also.

Second, the means whereby we carry out this discipling is found in the preceding verse (2:1): “You, therefore, my child, be strengthened by the grace which is in Christ Jesus.” When we come to Christ as Savior, we are reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:17ff.), we have the Spirit indwelling us (Rom. 8:9), and we have the transforming power of our Savior’s presence (Titus 2:11-12). This enables us to have the fortitude, the wisdom, and the vitality not only to introduce others to Jesus Christ, but to help them grow in His grace and knowledge (Col. 1:28-29; 2 Peter 1:3-4; 3:18). To put it in other terms, we have grace (Eph. 4:7) to equip saints for works of ministry (Eph. 4:12). These first two points remind us that the Christian leader, the elder/pastor, is called first and foremost to reproduce reproducers through the grace of Jesus Christ in him.

Many of us may think we are not capable of coming along side someone else, introducing them to Christ; and/or helping them to grow in Him. Yet, Paul communicates how to do this very simply. We take what we have learned from the Scriptures (often with the help of others), we teach another believer how to live the Christian life and how they can in turn teach someone else the same kinds of things. As we do this, we turn to Christ in prayer and faith and say, “Lord, I don’t know what I am doing exactly, but I know You can empower and teach me. Give me the wisdom, the courage, and the strength to be faithful in reproducing reproducers. Help me be effective in this!” That is a prayer which Jesus Christ will love to answer (John 14:12-14; 15:7)!

What are some of the things we have learned we should teach others? Teach them the basics: What it means to have a God-centered, God-honoring purpose in work, family, personal life, and in all; what prayer is and how to pray; how to read, study, and apply the Bible personally and in

our family; the importance of love-fueled obedience; how to tell someone about Jesus Christ; and how to help another believer grow.

Men, our ability to reproduce reproducers will determine the strength of our ministry and our congregation as a whole since then and only then will we raise up an army of Christian soldiers who will see their families and friends transformed. This leads to a couple of questions. Are you seeking to teach those in the area of ministry you oversee to live, serve, and reproduce themselves effectively in others? Also, is there a person with whom you are meeting one-on-one (or a very small group) so that you can help them become a reproducer?

I encourage you to begin praying about how you can become a reproducer of reproducers. This will be the topic we will take up more in-depth at our elder retreat in February. I pray it will be the theme of this congregation for years to come.

I am convinced we will revolutionize our congregation, our community, and our world if we begin to reproduce ourselves in others who will reproduce themselves in others. This will, by multiplication, raise up a mass of people passionate about serving to the glory of God!

I realize that my pastoral ministry is at least ½ completed. I pray that my second half (or whatever I have left) will be marked by reproducing reproducers.

Joyfully Reproducing With You,

Tom