

How to Create a Non-Disciple (‘Back-slider’)

(Hey! This wasn't in the deal!)

Excerpt from Harvest Mentality Training Manual



“The [Resurrection](#) Changes Everything!” Nik Ripkin

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How to Create a Non-Disciple ('Back-slider')

The first thing to do is fast track the **gestation** of a prospective new disciple - Let's not wait; after all "Today is the day of Salvation" (not tomorrow), get them to say the 'sinners prayer', or even easier, just say Jesus is God and your 'in'! Let's just rip them out of the spiritual womb at two months gestation because we can!

I trust you have recognized the above statement as satire. I am engaging inflammatory language to bring some attention to this area because so little regard has been paid to the alarming increase in such inappropriate, and all too often, damage incurring practices.

The discipleship journey is not activated when they are 'born again'- it is *transitioned*.

As with the natural birthing process, the life commences at conception, not birth - A human embryo needs nine months to gestate so that when transition happens from womb to world, it has its best chance to survive, grow and most of all, mature healthy.

Prospective new disciples need to gestate also - we must not 'rip them from the incubation' process too soon just because we feel we can. Labour can be prematurely induced by a number of stimuli, but if it is too early

then the risk of 'still born' is high. Infants need great care - Can you give intensive care? Most of us have difficulty caring for 'full term' infants. Remember, it is not the evangelist who will give the care, it should be you! ***As a result of these 'premature births' we often end up simply shifting from intensive to paliative care in one move*** - we precipitate 'birth' to a new soul only to watch it perish due to improper and premature delivery time, driven more by emotion or ego, than truth and conviction.

The second thing to ensure you create a *non-disciple starter* is to let the candidate know that it's *their right* to 'actualize' and be fulfilled, and it's God's chief focus to ensure that happens. After all we are now competing in a high 'consumer' focused culture. Where, on offer, are a myriad of syncretised philosophies, all promising fulfilment, well-being, enlightenment and/or prosperity. People are looking for the easy, comfortable, uncomplicated and low cost options. The option that maximizes their control of their desitny, dream or ambition. So not wanting to be out done by the competitors, 'the church' will adjust in an attempt to engage the market 'successfully'.

Of course, if you are selling a product, you always highlight the benefits, possibilities and oportunties, whilst downplaying or better yet ommitting any cost, responsibility or requirement. At best put it in the very small print. Now this presentation leads us to merely ***customise***, rather than personalise the gospel. To lead someone to personalise the gospel (become intimate with it in it's entirety). Means you bring Jesus into every part of your world and make your life familiar with every part of The King's.

All your missional endeavours must commence with the intent to make a disciple, not a 'convert'.

Pre-Conversion Discipleship has to do with reaching and birthing – Post-Conversion Discipleship has to do with establishing and developing. This is the responsible of all followers of Jesus, not simply leadership.

So, having this as your clear and immutable goal, you set out to minister the *Full Counsel* of God to the would be saint. This is not done, by simply down loading exhaustive data that (for the most part) is foreign to the hearer; No this is done via relationship, demonstration and verbalization. The Gospel Articulated – Demonstrated – Manifested. (Proclaimed, Enacted and Embodied)

The more a candidate is exposed to what being a Disciple of Christ is, the more informed decision they will make. We must be authentic about our victories, struggles questions and answers. R.T. Brooks said “*Only as I truly know Him, can I make Him truly known.*” We must know and declare all that Heaven is requiring regarding knowing and relevantly, yet uncompromisingly, communicating the doctrines of Scripture. Prayer satiated dialogue and relating will assist the Holy Spirit to Convict the would-be Disciple of what Christ has done for, and what He wants to do through them and how they, the candidate are to respond to Him.

However a **customised** gospel, (picking and choosing what one likes and leaving what one doesn't like about the Gospel –Tailoring it to fit your needs and agendas) commences really with the communicator – the ‘preacher’ if you like – with a **marketing ploy** and ‘sales pitch’.

Tell the candidate what they want to hear (rather than gracious imparting what they need to hear). Focus on resourcing them, over rescuing and transforming them. Promote **short-cuts** to power, blessing and authority without regard for relationship, trust, maturity and character. The new ‘Christian’ then simply selects aspects of God’s counsel that appeal to their egocentric paradigm and invest ‘faith’ in that. Ending up constructing a new theology which if it manages to produce after it’s kind, produces only deformity and dysfunction. This is what eventuates we encourage them to *customise* their Christianity instead of personalising it. Again, the latter requires us all to bring Jesus into every part of our world. The former allows one to merely tailor it to fit their needs and agendas.

Thirdly, you encourage them to **negotiate** their salvation, not their surrender - help them ‘sell their soul to Jesus’, (if He is the highest bidder and offers the best package) by pointing out the benefits and privileges of salvation **only** and **completely ignore the immutable reality that they are sinners who must repent.**

Without Repentance there is no forgiveness, without forgiveness there is no salvation from God's Judgement and wrath. The anathema that abides on those things marked for destruction (not humanity), that is sin, darkness, evil, the demonic, and all that remains attached to it, via allegiance to it or rejection of the only exit from it – The Christ.

Don't tell them the whole truth

(Acts 20:27, John 8:32).

- **Tell them of the blessings, but ignore the responsibilities** (Matt 10:38).
- **Tell them of promise, but ignore commitment** (Rev 2:7,11,17,26).
- **Tell them of Grace, but ignore holiness** (Matt 5:48, Heb 12:14).
- **Tell them of Peace, but ignore the war** (2 Cor 10:3-6).
- **Tell them of Love, but ignore the 'one another' or how to abide in that love** (John 13:34-35, John 15:10).
- **Tell them of Mercy, but ignore their need to show it** (Matt 18:21-35).
- **Tell them of receiving, but ignore their need to give** (Luke 6:38).
- **Tell them of Forgiveness, but ignore their need to do so** (Matt 18:21-35).
- **Tell them of New Life, but ignore their need to crucify the flesh and die to self** (Gal 2:20, 1 Cor 15:31).
- **Tell them of Care, but ignore their need to give it** (Gal 6:2).
- **Tell them of the Father's Heart, but ignore the prodigal's heart** (Luke 15:11-32).
- **Tell them of fulfilment, but ignore their need to serve** (Matt 20:28, Phil 2:1-11).

Tell them they are precious to God, but ignore the fact that God hates the sin – the creation destroying idolatry and rebellion that entails – and that His wrath abides on it, and consequently, on all that remains attached to it.

(Isaiah 59:1-2, John 3:18-21,36).

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