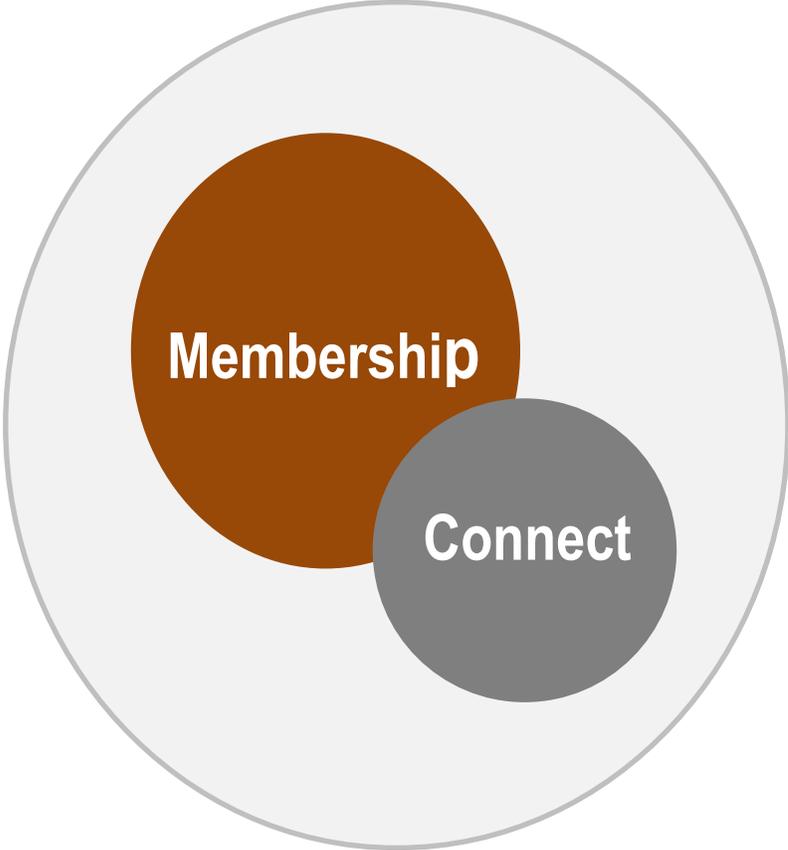
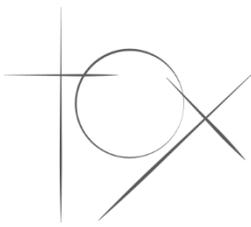


CALVARY FELLOWSHIP



CONNECTED IN GROWTH

III. CONNECTED IN GROWTH



Our two cross vision unifies us around a passion for leading people to trust Jesus as Savior (His Cross) as well as inspires us to live surrendered lives to the Lord as we deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him in every area of our lives. We also believe that the place where spiritual growth and transformation takes place best is in the circle of growth and intentional relationships. This is where we are learning to live and love like Jesus as we connect in relationship with others and help each other grow in our walk with Him. This is the essence of discipleship.

Sometimes we make this more complex than it needs to be. God has connected us within His body and the local church to help each member of His body grow up in the faith and become disciples who reproduce themselves. Let's look at what the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:11-16

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Key points ...

- Every believer is to be equipped for the work of the ministry which is making disciples.
- Every believer is to be growing and maturing in our relationship with Jesus while helping the rest of the body grow as well.

As members of God's family, we are to be *Connected in Growth*.

We are called to be making disciples as we go throughout the course of our daily lives. There are plenty of spiritual disciplines by which we can define and guide this process. Jesus, however, made a very revealing comment about what it means to be His disciple.

"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher."
Luke 6:40

Some translations replace the word disciple with *pupil* or *student*. That's what a disciple really is: a learner. As disciples of Jesus we are to learn, and when we are fully trained, we will be like Him.

That's the true goal of discipleship. It's not to generate Bible scholars or evangelists, or counselors or even leaders. The result of discipleship is someone who looks more like Jesus. Consider the impact the early disciples had. It wasn't their Bible knowledge or their oratory skills that made them stand out.

“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” Acts 4:13

No matter where people are engaged in the process of discipleship, no matter what tools or techniques we use to pass on spiritual truth, the ultimate goal is men and women who become more and more like Jesus—and are able to pass this character on to others and help them do the same. As we begin to live and love more like Jesus, here are a few helpful marks of a disciple who is growing in Christ. This is not intended to be a checklist to measure yourself against others but more like a compass to continually guide your journey.

As members of Calvary Fellowship, who are growing and maturing in the Lord by God’s grace, we desire to be ...

WORSHIPPING REGULARLY

Gathering together weekly with our church family, participating in baptism and the Lord’s Table in celebration of the new life we have in Jesus and in remembrance of all that Jesus has done for us by His grace.

WITNESSING BOLDLY

Asking God to open doors for the gospel, always being ready to give an answer for the reason for the hope to we have, sharing this Good News boldly and clearly yet with gentleness and respect.

LOVING UNCONDITIONALLY

Walking in a manner worthy of the gospel and making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

CONNECTING INTENTIONALLY

Learning to live and love like Jesus and helping others to do the same in the context of intentional, discipling relationships.

SERVING FAITHFULLY & GIVING GENEROUSLY

Stewarding God’s resources by giving of our time, talents, spiritual gifts and treasures to the Calvary Fellowship family and beyond.

PRAYING PURPOSEFULLY

Seeking God’s face and continually interceding for others privately and corporately as we pray for God’s kingdom to come and His will to be done.

What's so encouraging is that many at Calvary Fellowship are experiencing the joy of being *Connected in Growth* as we help others grow in their relationship with Jesus. We have many environments where each of us can connect with others as we help each other learn to live and love like Jesus and actively live out the 2 cross vision.

- Families – The first and most important discipling relationships we have are developed between husbands & wives and parents & children.
- Men's and Women's studies, Students and Kidz JAM, Care Groups, Serving Team, Short term mission trips – Calvary Fellowship offers many relational environments for intentional discipleship to take root and grow.
- Small Groups provide a huge opportunity for intentional discipleship – Small groups enable us to connect with 4-12 people as we study and apply God's Word, pray for and encourage each other, and serve one another. Spiritual growth takes place as the members of the group minister to each other as well as sometimes God opens the door for people within the group to connect in one-on-one discipling relationships outside of the group.
- The most basic level is one-on-one mentoring relationships for a season.

As members of Calvary Fellowship, it is expected that we will be connected in relationship with others, helping others to grow in Christ and allowing others to speak into our lives as well. No matter where you are connected relationally, I encourage you to be intentional with using your gifts to help others continually grow in their relationship with Jesus.



Our strategy for disciple making is illustrated best by the two rails of a train track. The first rail represents an outward focus on **evangelism** - leading people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Every believer is called to be a witness for Christ.

The second rail is focused on **maturity** – helping believers get rooted and established in the faith as they press on toward maturity in Christ. In the same way, every believer is called to invest in the spiritual development of others.

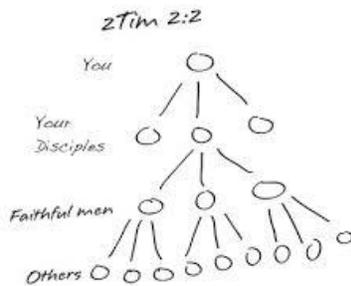
Often churches emphasize one more than the other. If a train leans too much on one rail than the other it will be in danger of running off the tracks. Discipleship begins with evangelism and continues through to making disciples who make disciples.

Jesus ministered to the crowds and to His small group, but much of His ministry was focused on connecting with one person at a time.

Who's your "one" for this next season?

Who's the man or woman who you may have led to the Lord or who is still an infant in their walk with Jesus who you can come alongside and help to learn to live and love more like Jesus? Imagine if each person in our church was connected in growth with just one other person for the next year.

The illustration below helps to cast a vision for what can happen when we step out in faith and allow the Holy Spirit to transform us and grow us up in Christ. It is based on the principle found in 2 Timothy 2:2



“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”

Here we see the apostle Paul discipling Timothy, who in turn will disciple “faithful men”, who in turn will disciple others. This represents 4 generations of disciples. This is the vision of making disciples who make disciples that Jesus modeled for us.

THE POTENTIAL OF INVESTING IN ONE PERSON FOR ONE YEAR AS YOU MAKE DISCIPLES, WHO MAKE DISCIPLES, ...

Year 1	2 disciples
Year 2	4 disciples
Year 3	8 disciples
Year 4	16 disciples
Year 5	32 disciples
Year 6	64 disciples
Year 7	128 disciples
Year 8	256 disciples
Year 9	512 disciples
Year 10	1024 disciples
Year 20	1,048, 496 disciples
Year 35	8,589,279,232 disciples

Imagine if you were to invest in just one person for the next year. At the end of the year they would have an abiding relationship with Jesus having grasped His vision for making disciples that He cast for us in Matthew 28. You would have also grown because that is God’s plan to grow us up as we serve Him in this way. After one year there would be two disciples. In the second year you each find someone new to connect with for the next year and repeat the process, year after year. Just one person at a time. At the end of 5 years there would be 32 disciples. Now don’t get discouraged. This is huge! Remember that Jesus only had 11 committed disciples at the end of three years. In theory, within 35 years there would be 8.5 billion disciples, more than the current population of the world!

As members of God’s family we are to be *Connected in Growth!*

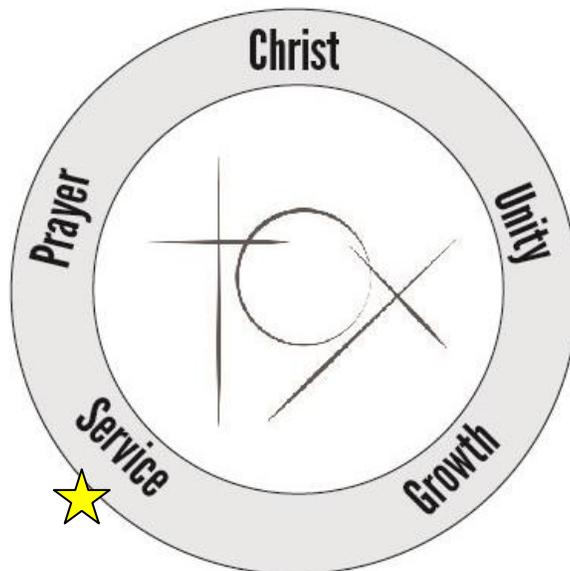
Let’s just start with one!

We can't disciple 2, 3 or 4 people until we have invested in one. Who's your ONE?

And since we are members of one body, this is not something that we have to do alone. When we are connected in growth through authentic, intentional relationships, as members of a small group, or a serving team, or a short term mission team, we are helping one another grow and mature in Christ. As members of Calvary Fellowship, we are committed to cooperating with the Holy Spirit as He transforms and grows us up in Christ and we are committed to being intentional with helping others to repeat this process with others. Remember the task that Jesus gave us ...

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and in the name of the Son, and in the name of the Holy Spirit. And teaching them to obey all that I have commanded.

So far in Membership Connect we have talked about the joy of being *Connected in Christ*, *Connected in Unity* and *Connected in Growth*. In the next chapter we will discover the joy that comes with being *Connected in Service*.



Complete pages 5-6 of your Membership Application at this time.