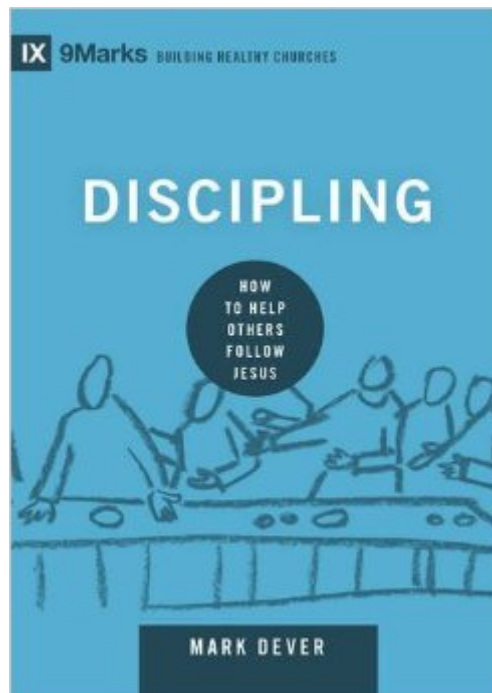


The book was found

Discipling: How To Help Others Follow Jesus (9marks: Building Healthy Churches)



Synopsis

Before ascending to heaven, Jesus instructed his followers to "make disciples of all nations." But what does this command actually entail? What does it look like for Christians to care for one another's spiritual well-being and growth? In this introduction to the basics of discipling, veteran pastor and author Mark Dever uses biblical definitions and practical examples to show how Christians can help one another become more like Christ every day. The eighth volume in the 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches series, this short book explains how discipling should function in the context of the local church, teaching pastors and church leaders how to cultivate a culture of edification and growth in their congregations.

Book Information

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There are some subjects we make out to be far more difficult than they really are or than they really need to be. Often they appear difficult because we define them in difficult ways or because we fail to define them at all. "Discipling" can suffer in these ways. Perhaps it helps, then, to define discipling as simply as this: "Helping others to follow Jesus." That's not so tough, is it? To expand upon it, "Discipling is deliberately doing spiritual good to someone so that he or she will be more like Christ." If discipleship is a term used to describe personally following Christ, discipling is a simple subset which involves helping someone else follow Christ. "The Christian life is the disciplined life and the discipling life." So says Mark Dever in his new book *Discipling: How To Help Others Follow Jesus*, the latest entry in the "Building Healthy Churches" series from 9Marks.

The series is based on Mark Dever's 9 Marks of a Healthy Church and aims to provide a short, readable book on each of those marks: expositional preaching, biblical theology, the gospel, conversion, evangelism, church membership, church discipline, discipleship and growth, and church leadership. As he explains the need for this book, Dever says, "Christianity is not for loners or individualists. It is for a people traveling together down the narrow path that leads to life. You must follow and you must lead. You must be loved and you must love. And we love others best by helping them to follow Jesus down the pathway of life." • God's love for us is meant to spark a chain reaction in which we love others so they in turn love God more and extend that love to others. We love them best through discipling, through helping them follow Christ.

The 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches Series is a set of short, readable books designed to help churches become and remain healthy. Discipling: How to Help Others Follow Jesus by Mark Dever is the eighth book to be released in this series. The first two questions that a book on discipling needs to address are: 1) What is discipling? and 2) Who are disciples? Dever addresses each of these in the Introduction. First he provides a simple definition of discipling. Dever states, "discipling is deliberately doing spiritual good to someone so that he or she will be more like Christ." As for a disciple Dever says that "[Jesus] says that being a Christian involves denying yourself, taking up your cross, and following him. The fundamental response to God's radical love for us is for us to radically love him. To be a Christian means to be a disciple. There are no Christians who are not disciples." So, all Christians are disciples and to disciple someone means to do spiritual good for someone with the goal of Christlikeness. With these two thoughts in mind Dever begins his book on discipling. Discipling is divided into three parts: 1) What is Discipling? 2) Where Should We Disciple? And 3) How Should We Disciple? Dever begins Part One by stating that we do have influence on people and are influenced by others so a key question is: How will we use our influence? We should recognize this fact and in turn be others oriented. As Dever states, "being a disciple of Jesus means orienting our lives toward others, just as Jesus did. It means laboring for the sake of others. This love for others is at the heart of discipling....the discipling life is an others-oriented life. It labors in the power of God to proclaim Christ and present others mature in Christ.

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