

THE Big 3

EPISODE: 192

TITLE: Why Intentional Disciple-Making = Real Church Growth

More than we'd like to admit, so much of our default strategy for seeing people come to faith in Jesus begins and ends with pumping people through our priority programs.

Here are 3 things to believe and consider about *real* church growth...

1. **In the next 20 years we'll most commonly see three types of Christian church experiences:**

- Those that have given up on organized church and are content with experiencing organic disciple-making. They may be part of a house church or simple church model.
- There will continue to be those organized churches with leaders that are not actually making disciples—they're *faking* disciples. Getting people into the Sunday service is their priority. They may use the word “disciple”, but they are really doing Christian programming, and they operate off a *functional* great commission. Not what Jesus offered and modeled.
- More and more churches will seek out the “middle way” of organized disciple-making; not throwing out the church services and buildings, but truly prioritizing organized, intentional disciple-making. They take the great commission from Jesus seriously... as Job 1.

Which will you participate in or lead?

2. **Words create worlds. Your language will reveal what's most important to you...** as a person, as a leader, as a church. If we don't have language around and a standard for what we believe a disciple is, we are probably not day-by-day, week-by-week, meaningfully moving toward disciple-making.
3. **The Church is, and has always been, people.** Real church growth is using everything at your disposal in the church and repurposing and pointing it back to organized disciple-making. Programs don't attract people; people attract people. And real church growth is about growing and maturing people—disciples that make more disciples. That is something worth giving our lives and hopes and dreams to!

In light of today's topics, you might find these posts and videos helpful:

- [Who Broke the Missional Movement?](#)
- [Is It Time to Reimagine the Church?](#)

Thanks for listening... we'll see you in the next episode!

Caesar & Heath