

EPISODE: 406

TITLE: **Why Church Elders Should Be Lead Disciple-makers**

If you're currently a pastor or elder in your church you've been given a VERY high calling and privilege! Your role in God's family is not just a series of business meetings and decisions.

Here are three key things to believe and consider about church elders being THE models for disciple-making in the church...

- 1. The only mission that Jesus gave the church was to make disciples.** It is how God is accomplishing his promised, eternal purpose to fill the world with his glory. Christ in us—the hope of glory. Amazing! Our churches, leaders, pastors, and elders all need to, and *get to*, be focused on this as our highest priority. It is why we were saved and filled with Jesus' own Spirit!
- 2. Jesus never desired that humans would be ruled over and led by human leaders who acted in his place as “lord over” others.** The Bible actually prohibits just such a thing. His desire is that his own Spirit, living inside us would guide and protect his Family, the Church. And that those who take on the high privilege of being an “overseer” within his Family would be a living example of what his life and ministry was like. Their lives would certainly not hinder disciple-making, but rather be a light and example of what this lifestyle of discipleship and hospitality looks like today.
- 3. If you are an elder or overseer in your church, please make discipleship your personal priority.** Use your position of influence to protect and care for those in your church. Be “among” them—not over them. Have them into your homes, model hospitality, generosity and a lifestyle of discipleship. And please, do not let your previous lack of this focus turn you into an ongoing roadblock to the pastors or others in the church who are trying hard to make discipleship a priority and a part of everyday life.

Lastly, if you find yourself in the appointed position of an elder in your church but are not living as an ongoing example of discipleship in all of life, humble yourself and consider if you are really fulfilling the calling of a biblical elder.

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*~Caesar*