

Christian Discipleship Castle Training: INTRODUCTION

What is the “Christian Discipleship Castle”?

It is a fun and adventure filled “Basic Training” in Christian discipleship. The “Castle” will help you, and your family, remember many of the basic truths that all Christians should know and be able to communicate to others. The Biblical worldview taught in “The Christian Discipleship Castle” will give you a clear vision of the greatest adventure of a lifetime: **“To Glorify God by Knowing Christ Intimately and Making Him Known Fearlessly”**.



You will see that you are a vital member of a select team called to extend the blessings of Christ’s Kingdom “on earth as it is in heaven.” This will bring about life-giving, liberty-loving transformation to individuals, families, cultures and even nations. The “Castle” training will prepare you to obey the Great Commission and fulfill the Cultural Mandate in any providentially ordained environment God may place you, from America to Afghanistan.

What is a Christian Worldview and why is it so important?

A worldview is the “lens” or “eyes” through which we see and interpret what goes on in the world. A worldview generally develops over a long period of time as we receive new thoughts and ideas by what we read, what we see (*ex. T.V., movies, video games etc.*) and the people with whom we interact (*ex. family, friends, neighborhood, city, state etc.*).

A Christian worldview sees and interprets life by the “lens” of truth, God’s special revelation, the Bible. Thus, ideally, it is seeing all of life as God sees it. Consequently, worldview is as important as life and death. For example, a Christian worldview values all of life regardless of age, intelligence, race or physical condition. Why? Because God has told us that man is created in His image. Therefore, you and all mankind have intrinsic meaning, worth preserving and protecting (*visit www.healthforalllife.com for an application of this truth*).

What is Christian Discipleship?

When we use the term “disciple” we mean what the Bible means, being a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, one who repents of sin and trusts only in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. By the power of the Holy Spirit living in them, they now want to glorify God in everything they think, say and do. Christian discipleship can be defined many ways, but for our purposes (*to build a consistent Christian worldview*), we mean:

The disciplined construction of a Christian worldview distinguished by Bible-based training & Reformation theology that is God-centered, Christ-honoring & Holy Spirit-empowering. It demonstrates Kingdom priorities and results in the Biblical transformation of people, cultures and nations, all to the glory of God.

The 7 Irreducible Components of Our Christian Discipleship

1) Bible-based Worldview Training:

The Bible, all 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, is used as the primary textbook for our worldview training.

2) Reformation Theology: Our theology is not original but historically based on the foundation of God’s holy word. We are not reinventing the wheel or finding new truth but returning to the “old paths” with refreshing new applications of these very ancient truths and principles.

3) God centered: Our training begins and ends with God (“*all to the glory of God*”), with special emphasis on the worship of the one and only Sovereign, Holy, Triune God.

4) Christ honoring: Emphasis here is on knowing Him intimately and exalting Jesus Christ our Prophet, Priest and King.

5) **Holy Spirit empowering:** Because the Holy Spirit irresistibly applies God's grace, enables saving faith and is given to all true believers, our desire is to live life by His power, versus our own strength.

6) **Demonstrating Kingdom priorities:** Our yearning is to "Seek first the Kingdom of God ..." by obeying the Great Commission and fulfilling the Cultural Mandate.

7) **Resulting in the Biblical transformation of people, cultures and nations:** Our vision is to see the "root" and "fruit" of the gospel transform individuals, families and entire cultures as they shine the "light" (*communicating God's truth*) and be "salt" (*manifest Christlike character & conduct*) in all four of the God ordained power structures found in every society.

What are the Four God Ordained Power Structures of Society?

You will be surprised when you see what God has created to help us fight evil and bring order out of the chaos that our rebellion (*i.e. "sin"*) always produces. And, because God's blessings can be abused, you will see how these four great power centers have ways of breeding idolatry in every culture (*remember, idolatry in its most basic form is anyone or anything that takes the place of God in our heart and affections*). You will discover what these four things are when you study the 12 characteristics of "**The Castle**" (*esp. #2*).

The Castle's 12 Characteristics:

Three Identifying Marks: SEEING

1) **Seeing:** A Firm Foundation → Jesus Christ & His Gospel of Grace

A) God, the personal Incarnate Word and

B) The Bible, the objective Written Word.

We begin with the person of Jesus Christ and His Holy Word, the Bible. A new disciple needs to know the importance of both. He needs to know how to build upon and distinguish between these separate yet "married" truths.

2) **Seeing:** A Four Story Castle → Our Battle Plan

A) Remembering God's four power centers to defeat evil and

B) Repenting of man's four idol making factories that breed evil.

*The Castle illustration will help the new believer keep a big & Biblical view of Christ's Kingdom. There is not one inch on earth where Jesus Christ can't point His finger and declare "mine." Jesus really is "The KING of Everything." (*esp. education and medicine, two arenas the church has let the state dominate ... see www.healthforallloflife.com*)*

3) **Seeing:** A Focus on Worship → Our Prime Directive

A) Learning the three basic settings for worship and

B) Knowing intimately the one, triune God of worship.

Three Strategic Marks: THINKING

These next 3 characteristics help the new disciple cultivate disciplines that will enable him remember God's truth anywhere.

4) **Thinking:** To Help You Remember → The Bible

- A disciplined reading and memorizing of God's Word is promoted, in order to develop a consistent Christian Worldview, so that all of life may be lived to the glory of God.

Christianity is truly a thinking man's religion and these three "strategic" characteristics help the new disciple cultivate disciplines that will enable him to remember God's truth anywhere.

5) **Thinking:** To Help You Remember → Wise Sayings

- The disciplined building of a personal library and learning wise words are encouraged in order to remember the God given wisdom accumulated throughout the ages.

New disciples of Jesus Christ today live in an age of chronological snobbery. They think only what's "new" is useful. We believe, as did C.S. Lewis, "The only palliative (to "chronological snobbery") is to keep the clean sea breeze of the centuries blowing through our minds, and this can be done only by reading old books."

6) **Thinking:** To Help You Remember → Psalms, Hymns & Spiritual Songs

- The disciplined cultivation of a gracious and joyful heart for worship is fostered.

It's been said music is the language of the heart. The great Reformer, Martin Luther was on target when he said "Music is an outstanding gift of God ... I place music next to theology".

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Three Tactical Marks: **DOING**

*Applying what we know, through Godly actions and attitudes, pleases God. Therefore, specific plans must be made and prayed to **DO** this. Jesus said, “Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you **DO** them” (John 13:17)*

7) Exercising: The Classical Christian Methodology of Education to Remember and Pass on Truth

Here a follower of Christ learns the classic three stages of education needed by everyone, both children and adults, for in-depth knowledge and long term memory of truth.

8) Exercising: Memorable Illustrations to Remember and Pass on Truth

Several illustrations are used throughout this training to clarify and capture the deep truths revealed in the Holy Scriptures. (ex. “The Castle”, “The Bridge”, “Root & Fruit”, “The Prayer Hand”, “The Word Hand & Eyes ” illustrations.)

9) Exercising: A Personal Notebook to Remember and Pass on Truth

A individual journal is needed because “the softest lead pencil is stronger than the smartest mind” & “thoughts disentangle themselves as they pass out the lips and though the fingertips” (Dawson Trotman).

Three Visionary Marks: **DREAMING**

The last three of the 12 Castle characteristics simply apply Proverbs 29:18

“Where there is no vision, the people perish; but blessed is he who keeps the law.” (NIV 1984 & KJV)

10) Envisioning: A Plan to Spiritually & Physically ... Eat Well, Exercise Well & Fight Well

Victory, in the seen physical world and the unseen spiritual world, for growing strong, maintaining good health and for destroying evil forces just doesn't happen, it is planned and prepared for (visit healthforallloflife.com)!

“Amat Victoria Curam”

(“Victory Favors the Prepared” or “Victory Loves Preparation”)

11) Envisioning: The Transformation of Individuals, Families, Cultures & Nations

Every new disciple of Jesus Christ must be convicted of the truth that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is life changing, history making and nation transforming. If it doesn't change your life and the lives of those around you then it's not the Biblical Gospel! (Dr. Peter Hammond)

12) Envisioning: Everything Done for the Glory and Enjoyment of God

By God's grace & the power of His Gospel, the training received in the “Christian Discipleship Castle” is designed to glorify & enjoy God as we use His means of grace to transform sinners into:

God-entranced, Bible-saturated, Christ-exalting, truth-driven, cross-cherishing, Spirit-filled, sovereign-grace-loving, prayer-soaked, aggressively-evangelistic, hell-robbing, soul-winning, imputation-of-an-alien-righteousness-proclaiming, justification-by-faith-alone-apart-from-doing-preaching, training-dedicated, missions-advancing, scripture-expounding, strong-thinking, vagueness-rejecting, error-exposing, real-need-presenting, wartime-life-style-pursuing, risk-taking, justice-advancing, liberty-loving, health-building, personal-discipline-promoting, family-honoring, church-cherishing, state-limiting, abortion-abolishing, homosexuality-opposing, complementarian, racism-resisting, Biblical-transformation-of-every-tongue-tribe-and-nation planning, heaven-desiring, joyful, humble, loving, courageous, happy disciples of Jesus Christ working together for the Gospel to extend Christ's Kingdom “on earth as it is in heaven.”

“How awesome is the LORD Most High, the Great King over all the earth.”

Psalms 47:2



(This is a “Castle” adaptation of “Vision for Twin Lakes Fellowship” originally given by Dr. Ligon Duncan)

If you would like to begin this “adventure” or want further information please e-mail us:

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