

# The Kingdom Connection

10<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT FOUNDER'S DAY

PASTOR, JOHN F WHITE II,  
WESLEY, HOUSTON

WESLEY



A.M.E. CHURCH



# The Kingdom Connection

John Wesley, wrote in 1786, “I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist in Europe or America. But I am afraid, lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power”



# The Kingdom Connection

- Everyone is a disciple of something
- What are we disciples of?
- Disciple is translated from Greek to mean learner or student
- The reason our Churches exist is to make Disciples
- We been making Church Members and Not Disciples

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- We can be a good A.M.E. and not be a Disciple of Jesus
- If we are a Disciple of Jesus, we will be a good A.M.E.
- Discipleship helps us to see we must be disciplined by others
- We can't be discipled and ultimately transformed ALONE

# The Kingdom Connection



- Transformation occurs when a Disciple is in an interdependent posture, we must rebuke individualism, rather than celebrate it
- Discipleship must emulate the relationship Jesus had with the Disciples
- They were together in Community

# The Kingdom Connection

- Discipleship is a communion, a relationship
- Community is commanded in the Bible, it is not optional
- Our Faith is not private, that's contrary to God's Word
- God designed transformation to happen in community
  - Acts

# The Kingdom Connection

- **Ekklesia in Greek, means called out ones. Called to Jesus out of the world and placed in community**
- **We live out our faith in an environment of relationships**
- **Discipleship is more than information and behavioral modification**

# The Kingdom Connection

- **Matthew 26:20-26**

- Judas admits he was never transformed
- He never calls LORD, but Rabbi
- He never surrendered his life to Jesus, Jesus was not LORD
- Judas spent time with Jesus & learned from Jesus, informed by Jesus but was never transformed



# Discipleship is

- **Following Jesus**
- **Finding and Fishing for people to make them disciples**
- **Doing it in fellowship with others**

# Spiritual Disciplines

- **Prayer – 1 Chronicles 14:13-17**
  - The continuing work of setting our hearts on God
- **Meditation – Mark 10:17-23**
  - Read to let God speak to you
- **Fasting – Matthew 4:1-11**
  - We must be weaned from depending upon ourselves to become dependent upon God alone
- **Service – John 13:35**
  - The grace of humility is worked into our lives through service

# Spiritual Disciplines

- **Simplicity – Philippians 4:11**
  - We spend our lives conjugating 3 verbs, to want, to have and to do
- **Surrender – Mark 8:34-35**
  - Releasing our grip on all of it
- **Solitude – Mark 1:21-39**
  - Turning toward God

# Spiritual Disciplines

- Are we ready to ask ourselves some hard questions?
  - What's working?
  - What must we continue doing?
    - What's not working?
      - What must we stop doing?
- Is our church inward or outward focused?

# The Kingdom Connection

- Are we willing to do ministry out of imagination and not out of memory?
- Are we willing to be just as creative and innovative as our ancestors were to meet the needs of our people?
  - Free African Society
  - Colleges, Universities and Seminaries
  - Benevolent Societies

# The Kingdom Connection

- The pervasive trend in our churches today is to be a Christian without ever becoming a disciple of Jesus – that is, a “student,” or “learner.”
- The desire for maintaining the status quo frequently outweighs the desire to be obedient, faithful followers of Jesus
- Are we trying to preserve our church for ourselves and our generation?
- Are we trying to do church in a way that reaches out to a new generation?

# The Kingdom Connection

## Biblical Foundation

“Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.” (Matt. 28:19-20, MSG)

- **Loving – John 14:15**
  - **Loving God**
  - **Loving People**



- **Listening – Revelation**

**3:22**

- **Listening to God**
- **Listening to People**

- **Learning – Psalm 32:8**
  - **Learning more about God/Unlearning**
  - **Learning more about God's People**
  - **Learning more about ourselves**

- **Lifting – John 12:32**
  - **Lifting Jesus Christ**
  - **Lifting the Kingdom of God**
  - **Lifting God's people**

- **Leading – Matthew 6:33**
  - **Leading in a more excellent way**
  - **Leading in speaking truth to power**
  - **Leading in constantly being transformed by God**

- **Launching – Luke 5**
  - **Launching a Kingdom Vision**
  - **Launching laborers with transformed lives into the vineyard**

# The Kingdom Connection

- **Cracking Your Church's Culture – Samuel Chand**
- **Reframation – Alan Hirsch & Mark Nelson**
- **Lasting Impact – Carey Nieuwhof**
- **Autopsy of a Deceased Church – Thom Rainer**
- **Irresistible Church – Wayne Cordeiro**
- **Christlike Leadership – Leslie Copeland**
- **The Discipleship Opportunity – Daniel Im**
- **Transformational Discipleship – Geiger, Kelley & Nation**
- **Celebration of Disciplines – Richard Foster**
- **Blank Slate – Rodney Smothers**