

THE BIG “D” And The Missing Link

I. The Big “D” Word: Delegation

A. God Is a Delegator

1. Delegation is at the heart of the Godhead:
 - a. The Father *sent* the Son Who *sends* the Holy Spirit
 - b. Redemption/Salvation is the work of the Trinity in delegation:
 - The Father *decrees* our redemption
 - The Son *accomplishes* it
 - The Holy Spirit *applies* it
2. To “delegate” means “to empower” or “to entrust”
3. The mysterious, unchanging purpose of God, from the beginning, was *to rule the world through His delegates-*

And God said; Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion...
Genesis 1:26 KJV

4. Delegation is God’s empowerment or entrusting of responsibility outside of Himself to accomplish His purpose:
 - a. He delegates husbands to care for wives
 - b. He delegates parents to care for children
 - c. He delegates His ministers to care for the flock...

5. And He delegates the discipleship of the nations to His disciples!

Jesus...told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations..."
Matthew 28:18-19 NLT

Notice the similarity between Christ as a delegate and us...

And Jesus said to His disciples)...Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you. Then he breathed on them and said, Receive the Holy Spirit.

John 20:21-23

6. Most of us have at least head knowledge of all this...we know the “Big D” as a concept...and yet, most of us would confess dissatisfaction with this in practice.

7. But here’s the missing link...here’s a mistake I’ve made, and something I’ve had to learn that may help you...

Delegation without investigation is merely relegation.

II. Changing “What If” To “What Is”

A. Moving From Vision to Reality

1. We all know that “without a vision people perish”.

2. Vision answers the “What If?” question.

3. But God-given vision is never accomplished without delegation—alone, we know we can’t do much for God, so we soon see the need to delegate responsibility to others.

4. The missing link is failing to investigate what we delegate.

5. Instead of investigation of our delegation, we practice relegation-out of sight, out of mind-off my plate-not my area anymore, etc. And we forget the principle:

We don’t get what we Expect...We get what we Inspect!

a. Parents send their children off to government schools delegating their education to others. But they often don’t investigate what’s going on there. This is delegation without investigation, and parents don’t get what they expected.

b. Americans increasingly expect elected government to faithfully represent them and their values...then totally fail to follow what their “delegates” are doing!

6. When our vision of “what if” fails to become the reality of “what is”, we can be sure we haven’t really delegated, we’ve just relegated.

B. Kingdom Applications

1. God is the Master Delegator because He not only empowers and entrusts tasks to us, He investigates whether or not we're doing what He told us to do.

Delegation

And let them have dominion over the earth...Then the Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it.

Connecting Genesis 1:26 (KJV) and Genesis 2:15 (Today's English Version)

Investigation

Genesis 3:9

Then the Lord God called to the man, *Where are you?*

Genesis 3:11

Who told you that you were naked?

Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?

Genesis 3:12

Then the Lord God asked the woman, what have you done?

4 Investigatory Questions in 4 Verses!

2. God models proper delegation by combining it with investigation.

3. All the stewardship parables of Jesus contain an "inspection" of that which was delegated. (Luke 19, Matthew 25, etc.)

4. The Bible promises an inspection and accounting at the "Bema" seat of Christ for all believers...

But why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at naught thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Romans 14:10-12 KJV

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;

2 Corinthians 5:10-11 KJV

C. Obstacles to Proper Delegation

1. Investigation, by its very nature, is terrifying to us. (2 Corinthians 5:11)
 - a. A letter from the IRS examiner
 - b. Radar speed traps
 - c. Employee evaluations
2. It takes time.
3. It can be confrontational and messy.
 - a. Conflict, chaos and carnage!
4. It is politically and culturally incorrect in this culture.
 - a. We live in an anarchical society, where everyone does “what is right in their own eyes” (Judges 21:25)
 - b. Charges of legalism or invasion of privacy might be made
5. The Greek mindset: If I taught it, they got it. The impartation of information is insufficient for real discipleship, starting with someone’s profession of faith:

But when he (John) saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. You brood of snakes! he exclaimed. Who warned you to flee God's coming wrath? Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. Matthew 3:7-8

6. Fear of man—they might leave if I bring an inspection

D. Personal Applications

1. Teaching does not equal mastery any more than delegation insures performance.
2. The first question is not “what if?”, that I should “make disciples”; it’s “what is?”—am I making any?
3. *But even then*, the chain is broken the link is missing without the generational transference described in 2 Timothy 2:2.

***Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to
faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.***

2 Timothy 2:1-2

4. We see four “generations” of delegation going on here:

- Paul
- Timothy
- faithful men
- others

5. Delegation without investigation is relegation: If we don't require those we disciple to disciple others, the chain is broken, Kingdom advancement ceases and the church doesn't grow.

- Even “heard among many witnesses”, I must delegate to a “Timothy” or two
- But is there an “investigation” of my “delegation”—am I making sure Timothy is doing for others what I am doing for him?
- The final question is not, “Is Timothy delegating”, but is Timothy investigating what he's delegating?

6. If I'm frustrated with the progress we are making, I must ask myself:

- Have I made it perfectly clear to the delegate what I'm delegating?
- Am truly investigating what I've delegated? (in the business world of HR this is called “employee evaluations”)
- If I have to “fire” someone, and it comes to them as a surprise, I should fire myself because I haven't been consistently investigating what I delegated

7. Bottom line: Delegation without investigation is relegation. And it all begins with a serious “self-investigation”...am I doing it? Are those I influence doing it? Are those I influence influencing others to do it?

8. The missing link in the “Big D” is investigation.