

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

In Matthew 28:19-20 - The Great Commission - Jesus gives His church her marching orders: "Go ye and make disciples of all nations." Ephesians 4:11-12 gives the leadership of the Church the key to accomplishing the Great Commission.

The church leaders are not to do the work of ministry all by themselves, but are to "perfect (or equip) the Saints (the ordinary laymen) for the work of ministry." Equipping The Saints (ETS) is a step-by-step program designed to train and equip laypeople to do the work of ministry. ETS is a four-volume text with 16 lessons in each volume. The material was designed to train church laymen to do the work of the ministry. The course has been field tested and revised over a period of ten years by, Dave Dawson, one of the Navigators top missionary leaders, who has been active in discipling for 28 years.

Each lesson incorporates the various discipleship disciplines and skills necessary to help laymen in:

1. Their own personal vertical walk with Christ by incorporating the basics of Quite Time, prayers, Bible study, Bible reading, and Scripture memory.

2. Their own personal horizontal outreach to the world for which Christ died. They are taught the basics of personal evangelism, follow-up and discipling of others individually or in small discipleship accountability group.

ETS instructs and roleplays with the student the principles which they are expected to impart to those they are winning and discipling. In the training each student is:

1. Actively involved in personal evangelism, seeking to win at least one person to Christ.
2. Involved in recruiting and discipling at least one Christian person. Students learn how to adapt and use the same ETS tools which have been used to train them to work with a new convert or an older disciple.

The ETS program is built on personal application. Each lesson is designed to help make the various truths, skills, and tools realities in the lives of students rather than simply philosophies or theology which the participant only embraces intellectually.

Jesus reminds us as His disciples, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and

that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

John 15:16

ETS is designed to help students bear:

1. The fruits of the Spirit in Christian character, Galatians 5:22-23.
2. The fruits of evangelism in fishing for men, Matthew 4:19.
3. The fruits of making disciples, Matthew 28:19.

ETS equips the graduate with a basic set of tools which enables him to be spiritually reproductive and to know how to develop and train people raised up as he engages in the work of ministry.

Because ETS is a tool it has a wide variety of possible applications to anyone involved in discipling. Currently it is being used in Bible Schools, Seminaries, Christian Organizations, Christian Secondary Schools, Churches, and with laymen who are interested in doing the work of ministry.

ETS is a challenging and practical layman's program which is within the capabilities of any motivated Christian. The program can be done individually, but works best in a small group setting, either in the church or at home.

The basic content of ETS is on the reverse side.