

3. Developing Dynamic People or All Christians

Many times, the world, and even many Christians, look for people with a lot of potential and then develop those people because they are very dynamic. In contrast, Christ placed the focus on developing every Christian so that every Christian is equipped to do the work of the Lord. We will see that Christ did not just develop people because they were dynamic. Instead, His great concern was the spiritual life of each person.

One day, a dynamic young man came running to Christ. Mark 10:17 says, “Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” Here, we see that this young man was a very dynamic young man. He had goals in his life, and he wanted to know how to inherit eternal life. As we look at this young man, he certainly looks like a young man with great potential.

Second, we see that he had already become a leader. Luke 18:18 says, “Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, ‘Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’” Here, we see that this young man is already called a ruler. He already had a position of influence, and many people looked to him for leadership. Such a young ruler is exactly what the world looks for when they look for a leader. Many Christians use the same standard as they look for leaders, because they follow the example of the world.

Third, we see that this young man had a respectful attitude. Mark 10:17 says, “Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, ‘Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?’” As this young man knelt before Christ, it was easy to see that he had an attitude of respect for Christ. He even knew how to do the right things to show that respect.

Fourth, we see that this young man obeyed the law. Mark 10:19-20 tells how he responded when Christ mentioned part of the law. Those verses say, “‘You know the commandments: “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not bear false witness,” “Do not defraud,” “Honor your father and your mother.”’” And he answered and said to Him, ‘Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.’” Here, we see that this young man was very concerned to obey the law in his relationships with other people. He worked hard to obey all of the commandments that related to other people.

Fifth, this young man had a lot of money which could have helped others. Mark 10:22 says, “But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.” We see that this young man made the choice not to follow Christ. Instead, he made the choice to follow his money. Here, we see that Christ always gave people the choice to follow Him or to follow their own desires. In this case, this young man made the choice to turn away from Christ. Christ did not try to make the requirements easier in order to get this young man with lots of potential to follow him.

Sixth, the verse in the previous paragraph shows us that this young man had the wrong priorities in his life. His priorities were based on the things of this world, instead of being based on eternal

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Updated October 2025

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values. A person can be very dynamic, but if that person has worldly values instead of godly values, that person will not develop into a godly spiritual leader. Christ knew that a dynamic person with the wrong values would not have a desire to make the things of Christ a priority in his life.

Instead of focusing on dynamic people, Christ made it clear that it was His desire to help every Christian develop and become an effective servant. Christ led Paul to write some key principles in Ephesians 4:15-16. Those verses say, “But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” Notice three phrases in these verses: “the whole body”, “every joint supplies” and “every part does its share”.

First, we see that Christ wants every Christian to learn to speak the truth. Christ showed us, by His example, the importance of speaking the truth. In John 7:16, we read, “Jesus answered them and said, ‘My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.’” This means that the responsibility of each spiritual leader is to teach the Word of God to people so that everyone learns the truth. It also means that opportunities are to be provided within the structure of the church to help each person learn to speak the truth that they are learning. Many people have sat in church for years and know a lot of truth, but they have never been shown how or been given the opportunity to share what they have learned with others.

Second, we see that Christ wants every Christian to learn to speak that truth in love. Some Christians have learned to speak the truth, but they have not learned to walk in love. As a result, they are motivated by the fear of people, instead of being motivated by the love of Christ. As a result, when they share the Word of God, they drive people away from Christ, instead of leading people to Christ. Christ showed, by example, how to minister to people in love. As a result, Mark 12:37 says, “...And the common people heard Him gladly.” The common people could see that Christ loved them.

Third, we see that Christ wants every Christian to learn to function in His body. Ephesians 4:16 says, “From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” Christ wants the whole body to learn to speak the truth in love. Christ showed this, by His example, when He told the disciples, in Mark 16:15, “‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.’” Christ knew that the only way every person would hear was if every Christian learned to share the Word in love.

Fourth, we see that Christ wants every Christian to be equipped to do his part. Ephesians 4:16 does not say to equip the dynamic people to do their part. However, it does say that the whole body is to do its part. That is why Ephesians 4:11-13 says that the leaders of the church are to equip all of the saints to do the work of the ministry. Christ showed this, by His example, as He continually equipped those who followed Him to do their part. Christ called some fishermen and invited them to follow Him and learn how to become fishers of men in Mark 1:16-20. Christ told

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these men that He wanted them to be equipped to minister to others.

Fifth, we see that Christ wants every Christian to learn to do his share. As the phrase in Ephesians 4:16 says, "...by which every part does its share..." In the context of Ephesians 4, we see that passage uses the comparison of a body where every part is learning to function effectively. Christ told the leper, in Mark 1:44, "...But go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing those things which Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." In Mark 5:19, Christ told the man who had been demon possessed, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." Christ showed that He wanted every follower to learn to do his part.

We also see that Christ helped the disciples learn, from His example, that they were to equip every Christian to do the five things mentioned above. The apostles realized that they were not to try to do everything by themselves. Instead, they were to immediately begin showing those who became followers of Christ how to begin to function in the body of Christ. Acts 2:42 says, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." The disciples immediately began teaching the teachings of Christ to all of the new believers to equip them to share the truth and to share it in love.

In addition to equipping all of the new believers to learn to speak the truth in love, the early church also equipped all Christians to minister to others. Acts 6:1 tells us, "Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying..." Then, Acts 6:7 says, "Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith." Here, we see that the early Christians did not just become followers. Instead, they became disciples who were equipped to minister effectively to others. This is illustrated in Acts 8:1, 4 where we read: "Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles...Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word." The apostles developed all Christians and equipped them to speak the truth in love wherever they went.

1 Peter 2:21 says, "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps." One of the ways we are to follow the example of Christ is to develop and equip all Christians, not just those that are dynamic. May the Lord richly bless you as you show developing leaders, by your example, how to equip all Christians and help each one to learn to function effectively as a part of the body of Christ.