

Expanding the Garden - HDR 1

Where do we want to go in 2020?

- Where is “our” THERE?

THERE at top of Mountain is Garden like communities all over our city?

What are some stops that we need to make along the way?

- Some camps we need to reach?
- Camp 1
- Camp 2
- Camp 3

What did I leave out?

- Everest Map.
- Old map?
- Base Camp?

What will be our Base Camp for expanding the Garden?

Everyone in an HDR?

- What is an HDR?
- High Definition Relationship
- Healthy Discipling Relationship

Today will look at.

1. Where the concept comes from? (Today)
2. Why do I need to be in an HDR? (Today)
3. Ingredients of HDR. (Next week)

Where does the concept come from?

If you were to ask people what the great commission is, in the Bible?

- A large number would most probably say ...

Matthew 28:19–20¹⁹ Go and make disciples of all nations ...

Some might even add ...

Matthew 28:19–20¹⁹ Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ...

But few remember the part after that?

Matthew 28:19–20 ¹⁹ Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

And yet, that is as much a part of the “Great Commission” ...

- As the making of disciples ...
- And baptizing them.

What does it mean to “teach them to obey?”

- There are two parts.
1. Teaching
 2. Obedience in other words, (hold them to account).

So, let’s put that in some “working” definition.

A Healthy Discipling Relationship (HDR) is ...

“It is a loving and safe relationship in which we are taught and held to account.”

So, base camp for us as a congregation is ...

For every member to be in a ...

- Loving and safe relationship in which you are taught and held to account.

Why is that so important?

Now, let’s talk about the **WHY?**

- Why do I need to be in an HDR?
- Why do I need to be in a loving and safe relationship ...?
- In which I am taught and held to account?

Other than the fact that Jesus commands us to do it ...

- The bible also gives us some other reasons.
- This morning we will look at four of them.

Why do I need to be in a HDR?

Because as disciples of Jesus ...

1. **We are all supposed to be heading somewhere**
 - Where is that somewhere?

Colossians 1:28–29 ²⁸ He **Jesus** is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Was this important to him?

- My guess is so as he says ...
- To this end, I strenuously contend ...
- With all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

What is the word that would have stood out most for a first century audience?

- **EVERYONE** (highlight, bold and capital “everyone” in passage above).

Paul’s “Jewish” audience would never have agreed that God has a use for every man.

- They refused to accept that “their” God (YHWH) was the God of the gentiles.
- They very thought of it was blasphemous.

Paul’s Gnostic audience would never have agreed that ...

- Every man could be warned, taught and presented complete to God.

They believed that the knowledge necessary for that kind of life ...

- Was so involved and difficult ...
- That it could only be the possession of a few.

For Centuries People saw the thought of teaching wisdom to all men as utopian.

- Change and maturity was simply not for everyone.

Paul is saying that this message is for everyone.

- We admonish and teach everyone.

Doesn’t say ...

- Everyone who is in the full-time ministry.
- Everyone who is a FGL or ...
- Every young Disciple, or ...
- Every Disciple who likes the idea.

No, he says everyone must be taught! WHY?

- Because everyone needs to be presented **“Mature in Christ?”**
- What does that mean?
- **Teleios → Telos**
- **Telos: End, conclusion, close, goal.**

- Teleioō: bring to an end, finish, complete, carry out, accomplish.

What does it mean to be “fully mature” in Christ?

- You have reached your intended end or goal.
- Work is finished, has been carried out, is complete.

What is the intended goal?

- The Image (image in Garden) ...
- Jesus came to restore the image.

At baptism, power of sin is broken and debt is cancelled.

- I am not set up to become the image.

Illustration of man moving towards end of being like Jesus

Why do I need to be in an HDR?

2. Our Hearts are Deceitful

Jeremiah 17:9⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

What do our hearts usually tell us?

- Most of the time, our hearts usually tell us that ...
- We are Better than what we actually are.
- OR Worse than what we actually are.

THIS IS MY LIFE (Teenage Girl)

Mom: You are so beautiful, sweetie!

Dad: If any boy asks you out, I am going to be coming for him.

Grandparents: You are so gorgeous, guys must be all over you.

Friends of Parents: You are going to break a lot of hearts.

Friends: You are pretty, now keep quiet.

Boys: Why is that potato looking at me?

We call this accused or deceived.

- Hey handsome or ...
- I really need to lose some weight?

Some of us see ourselves as better than reality ...

- Others see ourselves as worse.

We all need someone to help us ...

- See ourselves more accurately.
- Become more and more like Jesus.

There is not a single person in this room who does not need a mirror.

I needed a mirror when I was first helped to become a Christian.

- And I have needed a mirror ever since.
- I have at times had great appreciation for the mirror ...
- And at other times I have fought it.
- Because I didn't like the picture that was in it.

As a disciple of Jesus, the mirror has to become your friend.

Ben Jonson a 16th century poet said ...

'He that is taught only by himself, has a fool for a master.' Ben Jonson

As you look at the last twelve months?

- Have you been taught only by yourself?
- Sure, on "paper" you have a "so-called" discipling partner.
- But in reality, you hardly see them and if you do ...
- You don't talk much about the condition of your heart.

Sadly, I think a number of us have over the years ...

- Started to regard ourselves beyond the need for this.
- You either know it all, already.
- Or you are too busy...
- Or you will call someone when you need them.
- Or you feel like you can't trust people ...
- Or, or, or ...

The honest truth though, is as the apostle John said ...

John 3:19–20 ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

You love darkness instead of light.

- Because your deeds are evil.
- And you have a fear of being exposed.

If that is you, I want to encourage you ...

- Get back in the light,
- Open up your life.
- Stop hiding in the dark corners of the kingdom

Getting into the light is good for your soul.

- Don't be a fool; no one is above the scriptures.
- No one can be taught only by himself.

Why else do we need “A loving and safe relationship in which we are taught and held to account.”

3. To avoid a Hardening of Heart

Hebrews 3:12–13

Context:

- The author refers back to the Israelites that died in the desert ...
- And never entered God's rest (the promised land) ...
- Because they had sinful, unbelieving hearts, that turned away from God.

And he then says, Hebrews 3:12–13 ¹² See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Don't end up like your forefathers.

- God spoke to them in the desert and they did not listen.
- Not only did they not listen, but they didn't help or challenge one another.
- And because they didn't help one another.
- Sin hardened their hearts and they turned away from the Living God.
- And they died in the desert.

What do we learn about sin?

- Sin hardens hearts!
- Why? Because that is what sin does.

Every sin is of a Hardening Nature ...

- Impurity, immorality, adultery, deceit, laziness, selfishness or pride.

There is not a sin of which you can say ...

- Since I've been allowing this in my life...
- My heart has really softened up ...
- And I feel so much closer to God.

Every sin is of a hardening nature.

- And by being often committed, a habit is contracted,
- And a callousness brought upon the heart and conscience.

Your Heart becomes less sensitive.

- And your Conscience less tender.

Therefore, the author is imploring us saying ...

- Let's not make the mistake that our forefather's did in the desert.

Hebrews 3:12–13 ¹² See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Encourage one another ...

- And do it daily while you still have the chance.

But what does he mean by that?

- Encourage one another?
- You can do it brother!
- That certainly won't hurt ...
- But that is not per say what the word encourage means.

Encourage mean? = Parakaleō

- To Call to one's side ...
- To Appeal to ...

- To Urge ...
- To Exhort ...
- To Implore ...
- To Invite ...
- To Request ...

He is saying that it is your and my God given duty to ...

- Appeal to, urge, exhort, implore, to call to our side ...
- Our brothers and sisters ...
- And to do it when? To do it daily!

We need to call each other to be the image.

- To allow Jesus healing and sin breaking power in our lives.
- And to expand the garden.

Don't let sin fool you!

- Don't let it pull the wool over your eyes.

We need to help one another.

- We need to do it kindly, graciously and lovingly.
- But help we must.

Every person, must at least have one other person ...

- Dedicated to helping them.

Why have an HDR?

- A loving and safe relationship in which you can be taught and held to account.

4. We all need Connection

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 ⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: ¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

Partnership and connection, make the world of a difference.

Driving with Jacques