

## Sermon Notes

### Foundation 5: Reproduction

*"By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples."  
(John 15:8)*

#### The Three Essentials for the Reproduction of Disciples

##### A. Teamwork

*"We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake." (1 Thessalonians 1:2-5)*

##### B. Truth

*"For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain, but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition. For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit; but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts." (1 Thessalonians 2:1-4)*

##### C. Hospitality

*"But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us. For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory." (1 Thessalonians 2:7-12)*

## For Further Thought and Discussion

### Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. What would you need to accomplish before you leave this world to consider your life a success?

### Going Deeper

3. Please read John 15:8. What does it mean to glorify God? What is fruit? How is God glorified when we bear fruit and prove to be Christ's disciples?
4. Fruit is the way a plant reproduces itself so bearing fruit as Christ's disciple is producing more disciples of Jesus. Why must Creekside be committed to reproduction?
5. Paul and his team were only in Thessalonica for three weeks (Acts 17:2) and yet he left behind a thriving church of Christ's disciples. In 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5, Paul reveals the first essential for the reproduction of disciples: Teamwork. Please read these verses and discuss how we can draw the idea of teamwork from them. Why is disciple-making a team sport and not an individual event? (John 13:34-35, 17:21, 1 Thess. 1:5) What are some practical ways we can work together to bring the gospel to our non-believing friends?
6. In 1 Thess. 2:1-4 we find the second essential for reproduction: Truth. Where do you find this essential in these verses? Why can there be no disciple-making apart from the proclamation of the gospel and the Word of God? What keeps us from sharing God's truth with people who don't yet believe? How do you need to grow in this area?
7. In 1 Thess. 2:7-12 we find the third essential for reproduction: Hospitality. In the ancient world, "hospitality" meant "the love of strangers." In what ways do you see Paul and his team's love of the stranger in vs. 7-12? Why is hospitality and giving not only the gospel but our own lives in service to people essential for the reproduction of disciples? In what ways can you grow in this area?

### Application

What is one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?