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The Vine Project: Shaping Your Ministry Culture Around Disciple-making



Synopsis

In this much-anticipated book, Colin Marshall and Tony Payne answer the question they have been asked countless times by pastors and church leaders all around the world since the publication of "The Trellis and the Vine". The question goes like this: "Look, I've read your book, and it expresses what I have always thought about Christian ministry. But as I kept reading, I had this sinking feeling that what actually happens in our church is still a long way from the kind of disciple-making ministry vision you outline and that I believe in. So my question is this: What can we do about it? How can we shape the whole culture of our church around disciple-making?" In "The Vine Project", Marshall and Payne provide a roadmap and resources for this sort of church-wide culture change. The book guides your ministry leadership team through a five-phase process for growth and change, with biblical input, practical ideas, resources, case studies, exercises and projects along the way. You will be helped to: clarify and sharpen your convictions (Phase 1) reform your own personal life to express these convictions (Phase 2) honestly evaluate every aspect of your current church (or ministry) culture (Phase 3) devise some key plans for change and put them into effect (Phase 4) keep the momentum going and overcome obstacles (Phase 5). "The Trellis and the Vine" proposed a "ministry mind-shift that changes everything". "The Vine Project" shows how that mind-shift can and must shape every aspect of what you are doing as a congregation of Christ's people to make disciples of all nations. For more information and help in working through 'The Vine Project', as well as additional resources, templates, videos, case studies, the PDF of the Team Manual, and much more, visit thevineproject.com (a website is run by Colin Marshall and the team at Vinegrowers.)

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Customer Reviews

It's been seven years since a book on ministry from an Australian publisher took the evangelical world by storm. The success of *The Trellis and the Vine: The Ministry Mind-Shift that Changes Everything* (2009) surprised authors Colin Marshall (CEO of Vinegrowers ministry) and Tony Payne (CEO of Matthias Media), who described it (with typical Aussie humility) as an unexciting little book that consisted mostly of the blindingly obvious (14). As is often the case, the blindingly obvious is where we most need clarity, especially when it comes to a biblical vision of ministry and discipleship. As the title suggests, *The Trellis and the Vine* is built on a metaphor: the vine representing spiritual growth by Word-centered disciple-making activities (teaching, training, prayer, one-to-one Bible reading), and the trellis representing the structural side of ministry (administration, organization, running programs, and so on). Churches need to structure their ministry around growing people, not programs, and letting trellis work support, not overtake, vine work. The initial success of *The Trellis and the Vine* sparked countless conversations and caused many to rethink their approach to ministry. It also unearthed serious struggles. Though many were gripped by the book's compelling, biblical vision for disciple-making communities, they had trouble actually changing their church's culture. A new sermon series or one-to-one Bible reading campaign isn't enough to change everything (in the words of the subtitle). Without a more comprehensive and strategic plan to foster the right trellis dynamics for vine growth, changing a church culture is like trying to turn around an ocean liner with a few strokes of an oar (30).

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