



Disciple of Christ Part 2

Every believer in Christ should be a disciple of Christ because we all should have the natural desire to be lifelong students of the grace of Christ.

Matthew 28:19

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Nothing speaks more about discipleship than the Great Commission. The word *disciple* in the original Greek is the word *matheteuo*, which basically means “someone who is learning.” In the context, the Great Commission was an instruction to the Jewish apostles to spread God’s grace beyond their Jewish boundaries since they thought God’s revelations were only for themselves and not for the Gentile. For today’s Gentile believer in Christ, it’s a call not just to make converts or followers or imitators but believers in Christ. Unfortunately, discipleship today in many circles is just a propagator of religious performance, a behavior modification program to give you a sense of superiority within the Church, and a convert system.

Even though discipleship is important, we must not attempt to usurp God’s grace with discipleship by teaching works and performance. Discipleship should not be portrayed as if being a believer in Christ is not enough, so we must take a higher step to become a disciple. Wrong! This is why it is more important to maintain the right perspective of who you are as a believer in Christ as you follow the learning process of being a student of the grace of Christ. If your failures don’t define you, neither does your good works define you as believers in Christ.

I believe it is for this reason the Lord chose not to use the word *disciple* after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts to identify the believer in Christ. You won’t find a believer in Christ being called a disciple in any epistles from the apostles Paul, Peter, James, John, or Jude in the New Testament. The Lord knew that our frail humanity will always attempt to usurp grace with works and warp our identity as sons and daughters of God with spiritual accomplishments.

Romans 8:15

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba Father.”

The most important part in our walk as believers in Christ is knowing we are His righteous son/daughter in Christ. The Lord stopped identifying us as disciples and instead began to identify us as sons of God because a son is greater than a disciple. If discipleship programs don’t build upon your Sonship towards the Father in Christ, then it is not true new covenant discipleship.

2 Timothy 1:2

To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

The best example of discipleship in the New Testament is the relationship between the apostle Paul and Timothy. Notice that what they had was a familial relationship first before their teacher/student relationship. To the apostle Paul, Timothy was not his student but his son in the faith. There was a genuine relationship first before spiritual growth was discussed. In other words, we must earn our right in a relationship to speak into someone else's life.

2 Timothy 2:1

You, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

The apostle Paul lays out so plainly the secret of discipleship to Timothy: Be strong in the grace of Christ. The focus is the grace of Christ, not obedience nor works. In other words, when you focus on your relationship with God as His righteous son or daughter and His grace, you will live as a true disciple of Christ naturally.

The bold teacher, Billy Graham, stated once:

“Christians are not manufactured. They are born again. And growth in the Christian life is as natural as in the physical life.”

Discipleship programs today should be done in the Spirit of Sonship and strong in the grace of Christ, not in performance. Why? Because faith can only be reciprocated when one receives love and grace in the bond of family. This is how you multiply the Kingdom of God on earth.

Hebrews 8:11

“None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.”

This is a new covenant promise to every believer in Christ. It says no matter where your walk is, you will know the Lord effortlessly. For one thing, we have the teacher Himself within us - the Holy Spirit. In addition, God will also send you leaders under the five fold ministry who are strong in the grace of Christ to help you develop no matter where you are. Our part is to discern who is strong in the grace of Christ.

For this reason, Joyner Briceño Ministries is developing a program to fully train believers in Christ to be pillars of the grace of Christ. Below is a link of the **eDiscipleship School** program.

<https://www.joynerbriceno.org/ediscipleship/grace-devo.html>

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