



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 God's grace. Growing in the manifold grace of God is a never-ending, lifelong experience.

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.

The word *disciple* in the original Greek is the word *matheteuo*, which basically means "someone who is learning." The Great Commission is nothing more than instructions to make learners of God's grace. Unfortunately, discipleship today in many circles is just a propagator of religion and a behavior modification program to give you a sense of seniority within the Church. More on this subject in the article entitled *Obedience*.

Discipleship is very important for the growth of the believer in Christ.

However, even though discipleship is important, we must not attempt to usurp God's grace with discipleship by making it a requirement to receive His grace. 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 biblical process of being a learner of the manifold grace of God. 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 Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts to identify the believer in Christ. You will not find a believer in Christ being called a disciple in any epistles from the apostle Paul, Peter, James, John, and 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 your walk as a believer in Christ is not a discipleship program but knowing that you are a righteous son or daughter of God in Christ Jesus, regardless of your where you are in your walk with God. I believe once you realize that you are part of a family in Christ, you will yield to the Holy Spirit's lead into the right discipleship program.

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. But 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 true son in the faith because they both were conscious of their sonship relationship with God.

In other words, when you focus on your relationship with God as His righteous son or daughter, you will live as a true disciple of Christ.

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 to discipleship: Be strong in the grace of Christ. The focus is the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

The bold teacher, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, stated once:

- *“Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ.”*

Discipleship programs today should be done in the spirit of sonship and strong in the grace of Christ. Why? Because love and grace can only be reciprocated when one receives love and grace from another in the bond of family.

Luke 6:40

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

The most important step for a believer in Christ in being a disciple of Christ is to want to be led by a teacher that could mentor them in the grace of God by showing them Jesus in the Scriptures. There is no such thing as a disciple without a teacher. Many of the heresies and bad testimonies from Christian leaders today are because these never had a teacher (or had the wrong teacher) to mentor them through the Word of God.

This is where the music stops for most believers in Christ. They cannot find a teacher that would devote the time, have a system in place or model and mentor with the Gospel of Grace.

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

<https://joynerbriceno.online.church/>

By Joyner Briceño