

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

Foundational Concepts

Core Group Training

(Part 2)

III. WHAT IS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST?

Since we know that Jesus Christ (Yahshua/Yeshua h'Meshiach) will build His "church" (Matt. 16:18) ... and we know that His church is composed of genuine, born again, disciples of Jesus Christ... then we need to know what a disciple is, according to the Word of God.

1. A Disciple is a **New Creation... in Jesus Christ ... BORN AGAIN** by the Spirit of God...
 A person becomes "Born Again" by Faith in Jesus Christ, **and** His full work of Redemption (crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension... etc... that what He did was enough for our salvation from sin and sin's punishment, etc... the sinner declares: "Jesus was punished for my sins...").
 That "Faith" is composed of **surrendered trust**, that is **repentant** in nature... fully realizing that Christ is one's **ONLY HOPE of RESCUE from sin** and from sin's **just penalty of God's eternal wrath**.
 (see 2 Cor. 5:17; John 3:1-8,15-20,36; 5:24; Ephesians 2:8-9; Ephesians 1:13-14)

2. A Disciple is **legally** justified before God, **ALL sins are Fully paid for, Once and For All...** (once for all time & once for all people ... and ... once for all ... all of your sins...)
 All sins **fully paid for** and fully forgiven (**legally**): Past, Present, and Future ... **FOREVER...**
 The disciple is **legally** declared "**not-guilty**" (see Romans 3:3-31; Galatians 3:1-29; Hebrews 7:26-27; Hebrews 9:11-14,28; 1 Cor. 15:1-8).

3. A Disciple is **RELATIONALLY ADOPTED** (Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:1-8) into God's Eternal Family through the blood of Jesus Christ. In this case, **RELATIONAL-EXPECTATIONS** "come into play" from now on. There is a **KEY Distinction** between **LEGAL** and **RELATIONAL** expectations. **All LEGAL ISSUES & Expectations** between GOD and the Disciple have **been taken care of** at the **CROSS** through the crucifixion, death, burial, & resurrection (and ascension) of Jesus Christ (**SIN, legally, has been dealt with**). But, like any family, all family members must relate to one another, especially to their parents, etc... in certain ways, according to the "**HOUSEHOLD RULES**" (OIKO - NOMOS → "economy").
 In our case, **GOD'S HOUSEHOLD RULES** (see 1 Timothy 3:14-15; Ephesians 2:8-22 (especially vs. 19))
 Since Sin has been **fully & legally been dealt with**, then why does **1 John 1:9** say what it says?
Hint: Remember, the concept of "**Relational Expectations**".

4. Being a **DISCIPLE...** means one has certain characteristics about him/her → **markers or indicators...** that **prove** he/she is **truly a born again, disciple** of Jesus Christ (let's see what Jesus has to say about this).
 - a. Will understand that **EARNING** one's way into God's Kingdom is **impossible** and **should NOT** be pursued, **ever** (see the story of the **RICH YOUNG RULER** in Matt. 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31; & Luke 18:18-30).
 The idea that a person can **earn the right** to "inherit" the Kingdom of God or to enter the Kingdom of God by somehow following the **LAW** (from Birth to Death) perfectly ... **is completely false**.
 It was **NEVER** required, even in the **OLD Testament, NEVER**. Performance-Oriented Earnable "rights" to get into God's Kingdom is a **FALSE CONCEPT**, never taught by God in the Old or New Testaments (that type of teaching is not found in God's Word, ever). Since Christ's Resurrection, no one can even Obey God **until** being Born Again.

 - b. Will **UNDERSTAND & TRUST** that **Full, Absolute SURRENDER** to Jesus Christ as personal and Only Master, Teacher, **LORD**, King, God, and Savior. That is the **ONLY** way a person can **become** a disciple of Jesus Christ. **This is an IMPORTANT CORE ELEMENT of Biblical, Saving FAITH**
 See the following passages: Matt. 10:24-39; 16:24-27; Mark 8:34-38; Luke 9:23-26; 14:25-34; John 14:1,6.

 - c. Will **Love** God's Word (not a manufactured love...) a love for God's Word: wants to read it, meditate upon it, know it, apply it, **obey** it → John 8:31-36; Matt. 7:21-27; John 15:7; 17:17-19; Matt. 28:18-20; James 1:21-25
 Jesus said in Matt. 28:19 → "... teaching them to **OBEY** everything that I **COMMANDED** you ..."
 → also see Romans 1:1-6 (esp. vs. 5) & 16:25-27 (esp. vs. 26) → "... the **OBEEDIENCE** of faith..."
 → also see 1 Corinthians 2 (especially verses 12-16) → (the Word of God is "inspired" by God's Spirit (2 Tim. 3:16-17))
1 Cor. 2:14 The person without the Spirit does not accept (*receive*) the things that come from the Spirit of God, but considers them foolishness, and **cannot** understand them because they are discerned (*understandable & evaluated*) only through the Spirit. (Today's NIV)
 → also see 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-4:4 → Sufficiency of Scripture (Sola Scriptura!!!)