

# 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... 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. The full understanding 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). By somehow following the **LAW** (from Birth to Death) perfectly one can earn the right to "inherit" the Kingdom of God or to enter the Kingdom of God (Messiah's Eternal Kingdom)... is completely false. It was **NEVER** required, even in the **OLD Testament**, **NEVER**. Performance-Oriented Earnable "rights" to get one 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). Although a person might think that way by a cursory reading of the Old Testament. No one can even Obey God... **until** being Born Again.
  - b. Needs to **UNDERSTAND & TRUST** that full, absolute **surrender** to Jesus Christ as one's own Master, Teacher, **LORD**, King, God, and Savior - is the only way a person can **become** a disciple of Jesus Christ. (**This is an 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
  - 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; 3:16-17; 4:1-4 → Sufficiency of Scripture (Sola Scriptura!!!)