

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE
AUTHENTIC DISCIPLESHIP-PART 1
JOHN 8:31

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Introduction

What is authentic discipleship? What makes a true disciple of Christ or as Christ put it in this verse *“my disciples indeed.”*

A *“disciple”* by definition of the word translated here simply means *“a learner; a pupil.”* *“Indeed”* by definition simply means *“truly”*.

Let’s look at what Jesus was talking about a little closer.

1. Was Jesus talking about just **learning ABOUT Him and His teachings?**
2. Or was Jesus talking about **learning OF Him and His teachings through BOTH the LEARNING and APPLICATION of his teachings, insights, and commandments in one’s personal life?**

There is a BIG difference! I’m afraid that most believers in our modern day Churches (at least in this country) are **satisfied with just learning about Him and His teachings.**

You can learn **ABOUT** Christ and His teachings without **ANY** level of **commitment!** But that doesn’t make you a **DISCIPLE!**

Just learning ABOUT Christ and His teachings DOES NOT lead to the life transformation that Christ looks for in one who would be a disciple.

What does verse 31 mean?

“Continue” means *“to abide.”* (Cf. *John 15:4-5*)

“In my word” is literally, *“In the word which is mine: peculiarly mine, characteristic of me.”* The expression is intentionally stronger than *“my word.”* (Vincent’s Word Studies of the New Testament)

So, that brings us to the very **FIRST** characteristic of an authentic disciple.

- I. **AUTHENTIC DISCIPLES STRIVE TO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE TEACHINGS, INSIGHTS, VALUES, AND COMMANDMENTS OF JESUS CHRIST, ALWAYS RECOGNIZING THE COUNTER-CULTURAL NATURE OF THEIR NEW AND UNIQUE LIFE CALLING AS CITIZENS OF GOD’S ETERNAL KINGDOM.**
(PHILIPPIANS 3:10-16; GALATIANS 2:20; ROMANS 6:1-13)

Authentic Discipleship is striving to live a particular life!–The Life Of Christ! Authentic Discipleship is a reckoning!

- A. **We Should “Strive” To Live Like Christ or Be Like Christ!**
Until we get to heaven, we will never be perfectly like Christ, but until then, we should always **STRIVE** to be as much like Him as we can be!

And we should be *in the process* of being more *transformed into the image of Christ* the longer that we live.

His life being totally lived through our lives is what we should be **striving** for as believers and as **DISCIPLES INDEED.**

- B. **This Comes As We “Continue” or “Abide” In His Word.**
Again, the phrase *“in my word”* is literally, *“in the word which is mine: peculiarly mine, characteristic of me.”*

1. **As Jesus Called The Twelve, He Said To Them, “Follow Me!”**
Matthew 4:19 “And he saith to them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
(Peter and Andrew, along with James and John)

Matthew 9:9 “And as Jesus was passing from thence, he saw a man named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith to him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.”

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*John 1:43 “The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith to him, **follow me.**”*

2. As Jesus Spoke To Other Would Be Disciples, He Said To Them, “Follow Me!”
Matthew 8:20-22

*Matthew 16:24-25 “Then said Jesus to his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and **follow me.** 25 For whosoever will save his life, shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake, shall find it.”*

*Matthew 19:21 Jesus said to him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell what thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and **follow me.***

*John 12:26 “If any man **serve me,** let him **follow me;** and **where I am, there shall also my servant be:** if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.”*

*Matthew 11:28-30 28 Come unto me, all ye that labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and **learn of me:** for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

C. Following Jesus And Continuing In His Word And Learning Of Him Speak Of The Same Thing.

1. One who is **FOLLOWING JESUS,** LIVES IN JESUS MANIFEST PRESENCE!

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2. One who is **FOLLOWING JESUS,** HEARS AND OBEYS THE TEACHINGS AND COMMANDMENTS OF JESUS!
(Luke 5:3 “...thrust out a little from land.”)

(Luke 5:4 “Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.”)

(Luke 5:5 “We have toiled all the night and have taken nothing:nevertheless at Thy Word I will...”)

3. One who is **FOLLOWING JESUS,** GAINS INSIGHTS INTO LIFE AND LIVING FROM JESUS AND PUTS THEM INTO PRACTICE! (**Ephesians 4:17-24**)
4. One who is **FOLLOWING JESUS,** VALUES WHAT JESUS VALUES!
He gains his value system from Jesus!
5. One who is **FOLLOWING JESUS,** MUST RECOGNIZE THAT HIS NEW NATURE IN CHRIST (WHICH HE IS TO LIVE BY) IS GOING RUN AGAINST THE NATURE OF THIS WORLD.
1 John 2:15-17 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loveth the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust of it: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”