

**DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE**  
**AUTHENTIC DISCIPLESHIP-PART 2**  
**JOHN 8:31**

**Introduction**

**Last time we began to look at the question: What is authentic discipleship?** i.e. 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”*.

We saw how Jesus was talking about more than just **learning ABOUT Him and His teachings?** He was 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?**

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.**

*“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)

We looked at 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.*

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

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- A. *We Should “Strive” To Live Like Christ or Be Like Christ!*
- B. *This Comes As We “Continue” or “Abide” In His Word.*
- 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!*
  - 2. *One who is FOLLOWING JESUS, HEARS AND OBEYS THE TEACHINGS AND COMMANDMENTS OF JESUS!*
  - 3. *One who is FOLLOWING JESUS, GAINS INSIGHTS INTO LIFE AND LIVING FROM JESUS AND PUTS THEM INTO PRACTICE!*
  - 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.*

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II. **AUTHENTIC DISCIPLES VALUE THE ADVANCEMENT OF GOD’S KINGDOM OVER ANY OTHER HUMAN AGENDA, CONTINUALLY PLACING THE CAUSE OF CHRIST FAR ABOVE THEIR OWN SELF-INTERESTS AND PERSONAL AMBITIONS.**

What things are there in our lives that want to crowd out the advancement of the God’s Kingdom?

A. **The World Crowds Out The Advancement Of God’s Kingdom!**

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*Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

*John 15:19 "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."*

*1 Corinthians 3:19 "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."*

*Galatians 1:4 "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:"*

*John 15:18-20 "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also."*

*The World...*

**B. The Flesh (or Self) Crowds Out The Advancement Of God's Kingdom!**

*Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

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Almost everything about **"self"** or our **"flesh"** stands in our way of our following Jesus as Lord of our lives as His disciple.

**1. Priorities.**

**(What we want vs What God wants!)**

*Matthew 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*

*Luke 14:26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.*

**2. Popularity or Prestige.**

**(Opens our mouth when it should be closed and closes our mouth when it should be open for the LORD!)**

2 Timothy 3:2 says that in the last days perilous times shall come and says that one of the characteristics of those days would be that, **"men shall be lovers of their own selves"** and that they would be **"boasters"** and that they would be **"proud."**

**3. Power.**

**(Are we seeking to be powerful in our flesh or under Christ's power in our spirit!)**

*"Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;"*

**4. Promotion. (i.e. Ambition)**

**(Are we about promoting ourselves or rather humbling ourselves and promoting the LORD)**

***Luke 22:24-30***

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**5. Possessions. (Prosperity)**

The Rich young ruler in **Matthew 19:22** who “went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions”?

I’ve said this before, and I’ll say it again: Having things is not the problem! The problem is when things have us and when things take us away from our obedience to the LORD!

**6. Pleasure.**

2 Timothy 3:4 says that still another characteristic that would make life perilous in these last days would be because men shall be “*lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.*”

**7. Peace. (Including comfort)**

*John 16:33 “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”*

*The World Crowds Out The Advancement Of God’s Kingdom...  
The Flesh Crowds Out The Advancement Of God's Kingdom...*

**C. The Devil Can Crowd Out The Advancement Of God’s Kingdom!**

**1. Blinds Mens Hearts.**

*2 Corinthians 4:3-4 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

**2. Diverts Mens Steps.**

**(e.g. Jesus’ Temptation in Matthew 4)**

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**3. Devours Mens Lives.**

*1 Peter 5:8-9 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”*

**Conclusion**

AUTHENTIC DISCIPLES VALUE THE ADVANCEMENT OF GOD'S KINGDOM OVER ANY OTHER HUMAN AGENDA, CONTINUALLY PLACING THE CAUSE OF CHRIST FAR ABOVE THEIR OWN SELF-INTERESTS AND PERSONAL AMBITIONS.