

The Discipleship Gospel

The Need for Jesus' Discipleship Gospel

TRUTH #1: God is not near as interested in getting us into heaven someday as he is in getting the Kingdom of the heavens into and out of us today!

Subversive Thought: Have we brought it on ourselves?

But now let us try out a subversive thought. Suppose our failures occur, not in spite of what we are doing, but precisely because of it.

Suppose, to illustrate, that the educators who guide our school systems seriously considered the possibility that the low attainments of American schoolchildren are not in spite of what is done with them in school, but largely because of what they are taught and how they are taught. Or suppose that our national legislature began to think that our failure to come to grips with the national debt or violence in the streets is not in spite of what the legislature does, but because of it.

It may be hard to take such a suggestion seriously, but to do so might well provide a basis for genuine solutions to problems that now seem unsolvable. A leading American pastor laments, "Why is today's church so weak? Why are we able to claim many conversions and enroll many church members but have less and less impact on our culture? Why are Christians indistinguishable from the world?"

Should we not at least consider the possibility that this poor result is not in spite of what we teach and how we teach, but precisely because of it? Might that not lead to our discerning why the power of Jesus and his gospel has been cut off from ordinary human existence, leaving it adrift from the flow of his eternal kind of life?" Willard, *Divine Conspiracy* 40

What is the natural result of our gospel?

TRUTH #2: The gospel we preach determines the disciples we make.

False Gospels That Don't Naturally Lead to Discipleship...

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prosperity | <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gospel of the Left | <input type="checkbox"/> Forgiveness Only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gospel of the Right | <input type="checkbox"/> Gospel "about" but not "of" Jesus |





It is Possible to Accurately Gospel About Jesus and Miss the Gospel Of Jesus...

Ten Gospel Truths about Jesus...

Bates, *Gospel Allegiance*, pp86-87

- **preexisted** as God the Son,
- was **sent** by the Father,
- took on **human flesh** fulfilling God's promises to David,
- **died** for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,
- was **buried**,
- was **raised** on the 3rd day in accordance with the Scriptures,
- **appeared** to many witnesses,
- is **enthroned** at the right hand of God as the ruling Christ,
- has **sent** the Holy Spirit and his people to effect his rule,
- and will come again as final **judge** to rule.

The Apostles Creed

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of sins: The Resurrection of the body: And the Life everlasting. Amen.

Jesus' Discipleship Gospel Naturally Leads to Discipleship...

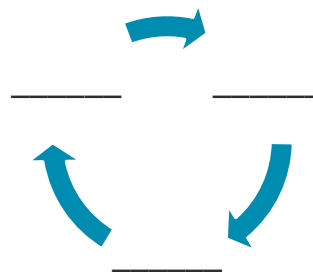
Jesus' Discipleship Gospel

Mark 1:14-17; and 8:27-34

4 Key Declarations

- _____ of God is upon you!
- Jesus is the _____
- Death by _____
- _____

3 Anticipated Responses



TRUTH #3: All who are called to salvation are called to discipleship! No exceptions! No excuses!





Steps toward Preaching and Teaching Jesus' Discipleship Gospel

1. Lead with Lordship

Ingredients of the Gospel:

Diagnosis

Sin is...

Alienation

Spiritually dead
(separated from God)

Darkness

Blinded minds
Ignorance of God

Deadness

Inability
Depravity

Captivity

In bondage to sin and death

Unrighteousness

Missing the mark of God's
character and revealed law

Rebellion

Defiant egoism
Self-enthronement
Independence

Prognosis

Salvation is...

Reconciliation

Love

By faith we receive
unconditional acceptance and
forgiveness.

Illumination

Light

By faith, knowing,
understanding, & believing
essential gospel facts.

Regeneration

Life

By faith receive life-activating
work of the Holy Spirit and be
Born Again.

Redemption

Liberty

By faith we are set free from
sin's penalty and power.

Justification

Legality

We receive pardon by faith;
God's sense of justice is satisfied
by Christ's death and
righteousness of Christ is
imputed to us.

Transformation

Leadership

By faith we surrender to Christ's
Kingdom; we repent – give up
control and come under the rule
of God.

from Jan Hettinga, *Follow Me*

Recovery Process

Sanctification is...

Walk in Love

With God and each other we
embrace God's grace, fruit of
the Spirit, and Gifts.

Walk in the Light

Educate, train, and equip with
biblical truth brought home by
the Holy Spirit.

Walking in Newness of Life

Appropriate supernatural ability
and resurrection power.

Walk in Victory

Learn to function as a freed
servant of God in the power of
the Spirit.

Walk of Faith

Understand our positional
righteousness and cooperate
with the Spirit in a process of
developing practical
righteousness.

Walk in Obedience

Learning discipleship, Christ-
Followership, through a process
of submission to God's Word
and dependence upon the
Spirit.





The Gospel and Grace...

*Grace is God's work in our lives for us, in us, and through us...
It is God doing for us what we cannot do ourselves...*

1. Grace Initiates

(Mark 1:14-17; 8:27-34)

4 Key Declarations...

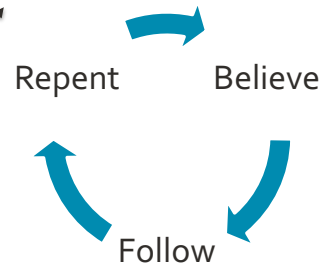
- Kingdom of God is upon you!
- Jesus is the Christ
- Death by Crucifixion
- Resurrection

5. Grace Keeps

- Guarded... 1 Pet 1:5
- Established... 1 Pet 5:10
- Grow up into... 2 Pet 2:2
- Protected... 1 John 5:18
- Watch and abide in teachings... 2 John 8-9

2. Grace Empowers

3 Anticipated Responses: (Mark 1:14-17)



4. Grace Expects

Discipleship Defined: "Taking on the Character of Christ, and the Mission of Christ, through the Power of Christ!" Mk 1:17

- Obedience of faith (Rom 1:5; 15:18; 1 Pet 1:2, 22)
- Grow up into salvation (1 Pet 2:2)
- Ready for & devoted to good works (Titus)

3. Grace Blesses

- Heaven
- Salvation
- Gift of Holy Spirit
- Adoption
- Forgiveness
- New Creation
- Acceptance
- Spiritual Gifts
- Fruit of Spirit
- Reconciliation
- A new family
- Wisdom
- Companionship

TRUTH #4: You cannot make Christlike Disciples from a non-discipleship gospel!

2. Forecast Transformative Change

The Apostle Paul: the icon of our new norm... Acts 9

Started out _____ from God...

Suddenly _____ comes on...

God starts to _____ me...

Told I have to _____...

Friends are _____...

Realize I'm _____ without God...

Feel an urge to _____ God...

Caught up in a new _____...

Given a New _____ – a mission!

Meeting Jesus at _____...

Telling others my _____...

Becoming decidedly counter-_____...





3. Embrace New Birth & Regeneration

Ephesians 2:1-6
John 4:7-15
Ephesians 3:20
Rom 12:1-2
Romans 6

2 Corinthians 3:18
Colossian 3:1-4
Ephesians 4:14-16
2 Timothy 2:1
2 Peter 1:2-11

John 10:10
2 Peter 3:18
John 3:3, 15-16
1 John 1:5-7, 9

Salvation then, being saved...

- ...is then not merely human existence here but life with a heavenly account flush in the transferred merits of Christ.
- ... Is to be "one in which the currents of divine life have at least begun to pulsate."
- It is Christ in you, the hope of glory! Col 1:27
- "He who began a good work in you will perfect it... Phil 1:6.
- God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure – Phil 2:13.
- Becoming partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust – 2 Pet 1:4.
- It is "your life hidden with Christ in God" Col 3:3.

4. Gospel for Disciples – not mere "decisions"



Church Planter Interview: Discipleship Strategy

THE DISCIPLESHIP GOSPEL TRUTH #1...

God is not near as interested in getting us into heaven someday as he is in getting the Kingdom of the heavens into and out of us today!

