



IDENTITY

DISCIPLES

IDENTITY - DISCIPLES PART 7

My hope is that we are seeing a divine pattern unfold as we go through all these resources on identity. I want to remind us all that all the aspects which we are looking at in this series are just purely testifying to ONE kind of people - the church of Jesus Christ, the ecclesia.

This number 7 resource on being His disciple will be no different. As we have looked at in this resource there is so much more than just giving yourself the title of disciple as opposed to being and becoming and living as a disciple. Titles and positions in God's kingdom mean nothing. It's all about identity and authority, so to call yourself a disciple but to not live as one, is no different to calling yourself a football player, but you never train or play the game. It's all just empty words, and the kingdom is not about words but about power.

1 Corinthians 4:20 *For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power.*

Discuss why the Scripture above is so critical to being a disciple of Jesus Christ in demonstration and not words?

The next part of this resource is to look at John 8:31-33.

John 8:31-33 *So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?"*

There are a number of interesting dynamics at play here and dynamics which we must be fully aware of for ourselves, never mind the Jewish believers in this passage or anyone else. We all have enough to be concerned about when it comes to coming into the life that Jesus promised in verse 32 - FREEDOM!

Many profess to be free just like the Jewish believers did here in connection with Abraham, and yet the evidence shows a lot of entanglement, just like in these Scriptures.

Let's break this down line by line.

1st - The Jews who believed Him.

Q. What is this "believe"?

The key thing to remember and note right here is that the Holy Spirit had not yet been poured into and upon people, as Jesus was obviously still physically present, and yet they 'believed Him'. We see this same reality in John 7:37-39.

John 7:37-39 *Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

So we have to ask what is this 'believe', knowing the Spirit was not yet poured out and into the masses?



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2nd - If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of mine.

Q. What does it mean to continue in His word from His perspective?

There are a number of absolute outcomes that are associated with the 'continuing' in His word.

1. You truly become His disciple
2. You will know Him (Truth)
3. The Person (Truth) will make you free

Now although the Jewish follower here believed, they didn't know how bound up they were and they also didn't know their true spiritual state. I wonder, do we?

Look at this dialogue between Jesus and these Jews who said they believed Him.

They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?"

Jesus' reply - "I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you."

Question. How does one believe Jesus but still have no place in you for His word, which is the thing that makes us free?

Because of what you know, "believe", to be.

Are we disciples who carry and are carrying living convictions on the inside of us, prophesying of the continuous works (testimony) of Jesus building us into His image, which empowers us to live as Christlike disciples?

OR

Are we disciples who just give verbal and creedal affirmation to who Jesus is and His word, while all the more having no place in us for His word, just like these Jewish believers?

These questions we must be prepared to ask and honestly consider if we truly want to be His disciples the way He intends.