

## Disciple

### Part I

1 Pet 4:16 — The word *Christian* here is meant to be a detrimental term, but we must not be ashamed of it, but honor God through that name that the heathen call disciples. Acts 26:28 — King Agrippa, in a detrimental sense, uses the word *Christian*, a scornful term.

Acts 11:26 — also the word *Christian* is used in a detrimental sense. Disciples were first *called* Christians at Antioch, like calling a person a name. These are the only three places where the word *Christian* is used in the New Testament. The word *disciple* is used 250 times in the New Testament, referring to the one whose name was recorded in the Book of Life, or who have eternal life by following Yahshua, or by being His disciple — one who is under discipline, who is continually receiving discipline as a child of Yahweh.

Somehow the name *Christian* took on meaning later on after the first century — but during the first century the disciples were known as and called disciples by disciples of Messiah. They were called Christian by the unbelievers as a reproach word of scorn. It is easy to see how true believers are scorned by the heathen. But it is also notable how the Christian church called Christianity is no longer scorned by the heathen but accepted as one of them. Could it be that this is because they are no different from the rest of the world system? (Jn 15:18-21; 1 Pet 4:16). The point of view of the persecutor; as a thief, murderer, etc. Christian — today there are no disciples worthy to be called *Christian* in a scornful sense. Maybe the Christians today should be mockingly called *disciples* as a joke, as the word is used by the heathen (one who is not a disciple is a heathen). There was no doubt that an implication of scorn was used, as in King Agrippa's statement in Acts 26:28.

An early church writing near the end of the first century says, “The vulgar call them *Christians*.” From the second century on the name was taken on as one of honor with the best of intentions.

If one is called a disciple today he is considered a little “off” and if one calls himself by that name he is a braggart. So what should Christians do today about the name they are called? Is there a difference between the two terms — and is there a difference between a Christian and a disciple?

### **What is the Difference?**

Acts 22:26 — We know for sure that according to the New Testament those who followed Yahshua were called *disciples* by Him. For in fact He told them point blank that no one could be His disciple, or continue to be His disciple, if he did not deny himself. Mt 16:24; Lk 14:27 — *would come after me, or follow me*, means a *disciple*. He was giving them instruction for the future also. These words would be brought back to their remembrance when they needed it, which they too would be instructing those who were baptized (Mt 28:20). In verse 19 He says *make disciples* — He did not say *make Christians* out of them. All the world needs is one more *Christian*. One more would make 1 billion and one. And he would be of no more consequential effect than the billion today are making to overthrow Satan's throne. All Christianity is leveled and lukewarm. All Christianity is nicely conformed to this world's evil system.

The word *Christian* has come to mean *an adherent of Christ*, but what a joke. Messiah told the Jews who believed in Him that if they continued in His teachings then they were *truly* disciples of His — or if they would abide in His word then they would know the truth and the truth would set them free. But these believers were obstinate and were disqualified as His disciples (Jn 8:31-37). They wanted to kill Yahshua after He said this to them because His word found no place in their hearts, and they accused Yahshua of having a demon (verse 48). They did not keep His word so as to have

eternal life (verse 51). In verse 59 they picked up stones to throw at Him. These were the *Christians* of Yahshua's day.

Note that the disciples did not call themselves *Christians*, but were called *Christians* by the ones who did not find any room for Yahshua's words in them. The Pharisees and the modern Christians draw the same parallel today. They are the ones who will kill the disciples and think they are doing God a favor (Jn 16:1-3). The same as those Jews who believed did when they heard hard words such as Jn 8:31-36.

We see that Yahshua never called anyone to be a Christian or to become one. His call was only one thing — discipleship. The very last words that Yahshua spoke to His disciples before He ascended to His Father in heaven was recorded in Mt 28:16-20. Yahshua came up and spoke to His disciples saying, *all authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all the heathen. Baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey all that I commanded you.* As Paul received grace and authority to bring about the obedience to the faith the heathens (Rom 1:5), he was making disciples of them (Mt 28:19), bringing about their obedience in all things (Col 1:22,23,28,29). His power or authority that works so mightily in Paul — a person receives power or authority only after the Holy Spirit has come upon them (Lk 24:49; Acts 1:8; Jn 15:8). The task of a disciple or the task of disciples, plural, is to bear fruit so to prove or bring demonstration that they are actually or truly disciples. Jn 8:31 — *truly disciples of His*. Through disciples the Holy Spirit brings conviction demonstration to the world's sin (Jn 16:8). After the Helper comes to the disciples they convict the world of unbelief — the reason they sin by living in the world system, taking part in it because they are not truly His disciples. They sin because they do not truly believe in Him. The Spirit when He came to His disciples convicted the world concerning sin — they sin because they do not truly believe in Him. They sin and the wages of sin is death. Sin is the transgression of the law of God. Disciples are witnesses to the fact that the Kingdom of God has come upon them to bring conviction

of the world's sin. Christianity is not discipleship, for they are still participating in the world's sin, separated from God where they should be separated from the world — *in it but not of it* — and protected from the evil one (Jn 17:15,16).

Jn 17:18 — As Messiah was sent into the world — so are true disciples. Messiah did not concern Himself with saving for retirement or with building an estate; He did not buy the latest chariot or follow the sports and entertainment circuits of His time. He did not spend money killing time or for vacations. But all His time and energy was spent in glorifying His Father in Heaven and fulfilling the purpose He was sent to the world to accomplish. He was a disciple.

This is why the true church needs disciples and not mere members. Disciples are sanctified in truth. They know the truth and love the truth and are saved (2 Ths 2:10-12). Disciples are the only ones who are saved. All others *are lost* — *they lose their life* because they were so busy in this life saving *theirs* (Mt 16:24-26).

Lk 14:27 — Whoever does not bear his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple (Lk 14:26-29). There is a cost to evaluate in being a disciple. Lk 14:33 — *No one of you can be my disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.*

So what is this thing called discipleship? Discipleship is compared with salt and if there is no discipleship it is like salt which has lost its taste. The church is the salt of the earth — but if the church loses its discipleship it is good for nothing, like tasteless salt. The “church” today is good for nothing (Lk 14:34,35). Where are you today — not even good enough for the dung heap, but find yourself thrown out and being trampled under the foot of man who are useless also without God in the world. The *church* today (Christianity) has been overrun and trampled on by the Gentiles (heathen) carrying on their customs and practices separated from the life of God.

## Part II

DISCIPLE — *Them.* Are you one of *them*? Mt 28:19,20).

Mt 28:18-20 — Go make disciples. Disciples are made instantly in the waters of baptism — go make disciples ... baptizing them ... teaching them to observe all that I have command you.

The very minute one receives the Holy Spirit in the waters of baptism he is required to be obedient to the word of Messiah — *all that I have commanded you*. Them ... teaching *them* — the *them* in verses 19,20 are disciples. The very minute these *them* come up out of the water *they* are disciples — the apostles can only teach *them*. The *them* will come under a spirit of obedience immediately — not next week, or next month or even the next day — these *them* have received the Spirit which makes *them* disciples. They are responsible from that moment on — from that one act of obedience which came from the conviction in their own heart from the Holy Spirit as a result of hearing the gospel — this alone is saving faith (Rom 5:1-5).

These *them* who are now disciples of Messiah are by the power of the Holy Spirit placed into the Body of Messiah. They are now in the confines of the Body of Messiah and are to walk out their discipleship there until they die (if they die) to be loyal to Him (Col 1:28,29), from the hands of the Apostles. Rom 1:5; Eph 4:11-16 — this is where their discipleship is walked out (Eph 3:5).

Disciples are teachable — Yahshua said *teaching them to observe ...* (Eph 4:11). Disciples sit under the feet of the teachers (Acts 2:41-47). Disciples can be handled. Hands can be laid upon them. They have received a spirit of submission. They are sheep-like in nature. There will be no fear to reprove a disciple. They welcome reproof, correction, and exhortation. Disciples are obedient and are trainable. They alone have been born again. They alone see the kingdom and they alone shall enter the kingdom. If you are not a sheep you are a goat. We don't teach goats and hope they will turn into sheep. Sheep are sheep because they are sheep. They are born sheep. There is no use teaching goats to be sheep. A goat is a goat because he is a goat.

**Part III**

DISCIPLE — Has there ever been a fat disciple? Can there be? There never will be a fat disciple because — one reason — disciple fast. Whoever fasts is not fat. Disciples have fruit of the Spirit — self-control. Whoever exercises self-control is not fat. A disciple is an adherent of Messiah. Glue adheres. Adhere means to stick fast to, to be devoted to; one who is absolutely for Messiah and with Him, identified with Him. Adhesion. An adherent is tenacious — as glutinous substance, a quality of sticking, dogging the steps of someone, holding fast to what is possessed, unwillingness to give up. The Body of Messiah has tenacity, which is the quality of bodies which keeps them from parting or dividing, except by great force — as Eph 6:12-19; 4:2 exhorts us if we are obedient Satan is defeated. An adherent is an imitator of his teacher (Jn 15:8; Acts 19:30; 20:1).

One can only be a disciple and one can only be disciplined where there is authority to do so. Discipline is carried out from the cradle to the grave under the good government of Yahweh. This is the Mt 16:18 church, the local New Testament church. Discipline is carried out in and through this church. This is where disciples obey all things that Messiah has command them (Acts 6:1-4,7; 9:26; 14:21,22; 18:23).

Disciples are devoted to prayer as an adherent of Messiah would be. If one is not a disciple then he is against Messiah — one who is not for Him is against Him. Matthew 12:30. He who does not gather with me scatters. For and against — for is beneficial to, conducive to. Whoever is not with or for me is against me. If one is not with or for Him, they start working against Him. If one is not filled with the Spirit they work against everyone, making themselves a drain. They make hasty decisions. They overlook others, they show partiality. They ignore reservations in the least of the brethren. They work against the Body. If one does not gather they scatter. Business is not gathering. Gather means bring together, collect, harvest. Gather means to assemble, to bring

persons into one place (Eze 22:19). To bring into one interest or one body (Isa 56:8).

*Gather* means to unite. Disciples gather the gatherable with Messiah or they scatter.

Scatter is to disperse, dissipate, separate, dis-unite (1 Cor 3:17). Anyone who scatters or destroys, separates, does not build up, does not gather, is not for Messiah. The Temple will be scattered, destroyed, dissipated, fall away.

#### Part IV

DISCIPLE — Jn 14:21-24; 15:8. A follower as Rev 14:4 — Those who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

The Song of Ruth to Naomi is a song of a disciple. A disciple is adherent (remember what the word *adherent* means) to the teachings, word, commandments and the Person of Yahshua, the Messiah — the one that Yahweh has made both Lord and Messiah (Acts 2:36). Lord meaning *King* — Supreme Monarch of your soul, heart, spirit, body (2 Cor 7:1; Rom 12:1,2; 1 Ths 5:23).

One is made a disciple by hearing the gospel. For faith comes by hearing the word of God (Heb 4:12,13; 11:8). Abraham's seed. We become united to Abraham's seed by faith (Heb 10:38,39). Once one is baptized, they are in subjection to the word of God — to live by faith as Heb 11 saints. Heb 11:15 is a warning to all disciples. Only those disciples of verse 16 will inherit the City of God. The New Jerusalem (Rev 21:2,27; Heb 12:22,23). Only those who have entered through one of the twelve gates — behind these doors one enters into discipline (Jn 10:1; Heb 12:5-9).

Paul told Timothy that there would come a time when people would not be disciplined — but would choose for themselves teachers who would but tickle their ears. They would not endure sound discipleship of the word of Yahweh. 2 Tim 4:1-10). *They have turned aside to myths* (something that exists only in the imagination or mind).

Just as a couple is pronounced man and wife — or married by the church, they are married and considered married and we don't wait around to see if they bear good

fruit before we make the decision if they really are married — we treat them as married — so it is with baptism. We don't wait around to see if they are disciples before we reprove and correct and admonish them. We don't wait to see if we can tell if they have received the Holy Spirit before we disciple them. We do not think that way. We assume they are by their confession of faith in Messiah. We don't have an ungodly fear that if we tell them they are wrong about something that they may leave. Let them leave now; it is better than later when they lead away a rebellion. Acts 20:28.

#### Part V

The Scripture is inspired by Yahweh, and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, training in righteousness that the disciple of Messiah, the true man that is of God, may be adequate, equipped for every good work (Matthew 7:22,23), not every evil work. This is why deacons especially must be of the same quality, of the same substance as what is described in the word or Scriptures.

1 Timothy 3:8, 9-13. They must hold to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. If they do not have a clear conscience all kinds of lawless deeds will come forth and destroy the faith of the church. They must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, not wine-drinkers and not engrossed in making money. The deacon is the highest standard of discipleship. They above all people are the example of Messiah to the church of

servanthood. Deacons aren't made, they are born in the waters of baptism, as any disciple. But those who are chosen as deacons are the special breed of men of high calibre, specially ordained or chosen by Yahweh to minister to His very own church. They must first be tested, then if they are beyond reproach, let them serve as deacons. Women must also be dignified, not malicious gossips, who talk to other women about their own judgments of the men in the church. They must be temperate in all things and faithful in all things.

Paul is speaking of discipleship. Let women quietly receive instruction with entire

submission. 1 Timothy 2:11,12; 3:15. The instruction on how one should conduct himself in the household, the over-all household made up of many households in a particular place and location and also this same standard prevails over the entire church of Yahweh, the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. And by common confession, great is the mystery of godliness, WHO was revealed in human nature, was vindicated by the Spirit, beheld by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up to glory.

## **Part VI**

When teachers try to delve into more than the Scripture brings out when trying to teach about discipleship, using real specifics, detailed descriptions, and fabricated examples, the hearer may try to obey by mere strength of his or her own will and not by the strength of the power of the Holy Spirit. It must be that when the word of Yahweh cuts into the heart of the disciple, it exposes our true need, and out of necessity we cry out to our Father about the specifics and details and examples of our own real sin which His word has brought out, as Hebrews 4:12,13 says of the ministry of the word of Yahweh (who is specifically Yahshua) — verse 13, for there is no creature hidden from His sight, but are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. We have to do with this (living and active) word of Yahweh — who is the word of Yahweh? John 1:1. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with Yahweh and the Word as Yahweh. He (the Word) was in the beginning with Yahweh, all things were made by Him — Hebrews 4:13. No creature is hidden from His sight, and without Him nothing came into being that came into being. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men, 1 John 1:6,7, and the Light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overpower or extinguish it, nor did the darkness comprehend this light. The world did not and does not comprehend this light, did not and does not know Him. BUT as many as received Him, to them He gave the power to become the Sons of Yahweh. That is to them only

who believe or ADHERE to His NAME. Who were born not of blood or passion or of the will of man — BUT OF YAHWEH. And the WORD became flesh or human nature (un-fallen human nature) and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1-14.

John 3:15. That whoever believes or adheres may in Him have eternal life. Verse 18 — He who adheres in Him — to Him, for Him, with Him, is not judged and this is the Judgment, verses 19-21, that Light has come into the world and men loved darkness rather than the light. Everyone who does wrong or evil — what ever is contrary to the word and the law of Yahweh, hates the light and does not come to the light lest his evil deeds which his conscience reproves him of should be exposed.

But whoever practices the truth comes (walks and dwells) to the light, that his deeds may be brought into the light for inspection continually so that he may be redeemed from every lawless deed. Titus 2:14; Matthew 7:21-23. So at the judgment his deeds may be found to have been only good deeds which built up the church — wrought in Yahweh.

John 3:5. Truly, truly I say (the light says), unless you are born of water (in the waters of baptism; you are born a disciple at that very moment, as we have learned) and Spirit at the same moment, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. If one does not enter into the waters of death and burial, in repentance, there is no forgiveness of sins, or impartation of the Spirit, which makes him a disciple. Acts 2:38-47, which describes what a disciple does, sitting under the feet of the apostles and teachers is sitting under the word of God — the Spirit which comes from them and their anointing. 2 Corinthians 3:6-8. The ministry of the Spirit, servants of the New Covenant — of the Spirit, who gives life.

The Spirit is a Person, who represents and is the Spirit of Yahweh and Yahshua, who said He would build the church. Matthew 16:18. Ephesians 4:11-16 describes how He would do it, 2:20, 3:5, etc. Anyone who is in this church of the light of Yahweh is a

disciple, one who adheres to Messiah Yahshua His Son, the only place one can be disciplined by Him.

## **Part VII**

Those who did not receive the Holy Spirit and have not received the Holy Spirit at the time and since the time of their baptism or the going through of the ritual of baptism are the ones who tire the church out, the same as a thief and a robber. They have no life-giving Spirit and are always giving their opinions which cause havoc in the brotherhood and take away from faith. Their fruit is rotten and is not the fruit Yahshua was speaking of in John 15:8.

The word of the apostles and prophets and teachers would be a sweet aroma of the knowledge of Yahweh in every place, for they are the fragrance of Messiah to Yahweh among those who are being saved, and to those who are perishing in our midst, to the one who hasn't received Messiah's Spirit, an aroma of death. To one it is life to life, to the other death to death.

Now who does not like to come to the sometimes "tedious" teachings which require the power of the Holy Spirit in the disciple to hear the words of life to life — to save the disciple for the kingdom, so as not to be destroyed in the future, to keep the disciple waling in the light and down the narrow road? Matthew 7:13,14. For after all, what is a disciple for? What do disciples do? What they want to do because they love Yahshua. John 14:21-24. They are devoted to the apostles' teaching, which the teachers teach, and the teachers are devoted to teaching them, or they are not teachers of the Spirit but promote their own ministry — not of the Spirit but of the

letter, which brings the whole church to lukewarmness. This church will turn into a harlot, unfaithful to the apostles' teaching. John 8:31.

True disciples are those to whom the kingdom will be given. Mark 10:29.

**Part VIII**

I once read a tract on discipleship and it read, "If you have become a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, you need to find a local church that is true to Jesus Christ and His inerrant Word. You need to obey your Lord and be baptized as His disciple." Somehow this man in his own power and strength and might became a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ all on his own.

Revelation 3:22 says that we must hear and give heed to what the Spirit says to the churches. If this fellow has already become a disciple and only disciples have eternal life — what does he need to join a "local church" for and ruin his faith?

This tract says that a disciple is one who has seen that God is holy and that he himself is sinful. He realizes that it is sin that separates him from the Holy God. He thus sees himself in need of the Savior and comes to Christ in repentance and obedient faith. This is all true, but this fellow is not and does not become a disciple until he is baptized into the body. 1 Corinthians 12:13, not until he is convicted to the heart and repents and is baptized for the forgiveness of his sins and receives the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38,41. A disciple is not a disciple until he is born again by the Spirit from above, the Spirit is imparted to him in the waters of baptism. John 2:3-5. No one is forgiven until he is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Messiah. Acts 2:38. All who are not baptized are lost and condemned. Mark 16:16; Acts 5:32; Romans 8:9; Matthew 16:24; Luke 14:27; Galatians 6:14; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:14; 1 John 3:8; 5:19. Unless one experiences the cross which is not experienced apart from the ministry of the Spirit from the churches. The cross is the initiation into the church and the daily walk within the body. Romans 6:14. This is the only place a disciple can walk in newness of life, or the supposed disciple is still under the control of the devil. Romans 6:22.

One cannot come after Yahshua unless he takes up his own cross. This is true baptism which places one in Messiah's body, following Him. You can only come after

Messiah in His body. He is not out in the desert. He is in His church, the church who follows the Lamb wherever He goes. Psalm 68:6, only the rebellious dwell in the desert. Psalm 68:28 (Amplified Bible), the Lord you God has commanded your strength (your might in His service) and impenetrable hardness to temptation as a witness.

## Part IX

The body of sin, lawless deeds — the body of righteous deeds. Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14.

Matthew 10:37-39. Disciples are born, not made — born in the waters of baptism by the spirit from above all other spirits below, a Spirit not of this world, and overcoming Spirit, the Holy Spirit. Matthew 10:40-42. *Whoever receives you receives me.* You being first of all a disciple, a disciple is described by Yahshua in John 12:24, one who died in the waters of freedom

river. Romans 6:4-6. Well then, we by our baptism were buried with Him in death, in order that, just as Messiah was raised from among the dead by the Father's glorious power, we also should live an entirely new life, verse 4. We are dead with Him to self and sin and the world, By our baptism unto death we were buried with Him.

Our old man was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be done away with — or deprived of its power that it once exerted over us. Because we have in our baptism come out of it, out from under Satan's dominion as Peter called the first church out of in Acts 2:40 — Escape, come out of the body of sin, the wicked, unjust, and perverted generation.

This now new man has been delivered by the hearing of the gospel of Messiah and of His Kingdom. He was delivered out of the Body of Sin, the old generation of perversion and injustice, the body of sin or lawlessness could not hold that man — because the old man is enslaved to sin who was not well adjusted in the unjust body of sin, through the hearing of the good news took his liberty — and through baptism he

was crucified with Messiah and has now become a new man in Messiah in a body which is also new — which is perfectly created for this new man to live, move and have his being in. This new body is the Body of Messiah. This new man is the one made new in Messiah, which makes a corporate man. So you see He is all and in all. Ephesians 1:22,23. The new man belongs to Messiah and it is also Messiah's body. We become the righteousness of Yahweh. Woe then to anyone who persists in lawless deeds within this new body of righteousness. Romans 6:1,2; Matthew 7:23; 21:43.

### **Part X**

Matthew 10:10; Luke 10:16; John 13:20; 1 John 4:6. This *you* is the disciple who is an apostle or maybe a prophet, an evangelist, shepherd, teacher or any other disciple with a gift. He is first of all a disciple. No one can lead anyone to Messiah unless he is first of all a disciple. *Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent me.* First of all the disciple is one who is sent also — just like Yahshua was sent — John 17:18, 7:18. The one Sent is a disciple and there is no deceit in Him — or falsehood — which is not judged by him so as to be a noble vessel. Revelation 14. Those who follow the Lamb have no falsehood in them, for they dwell in the light as we have said. These men in Matthew 7:22 had deceit in them. They were not able to judge the lawlessness in them. They were able to do miracles, cast out demons, and release the proper healing properties in the sick by using the name of Yahshua — but they were deceitful or selfishly ambitious — they were not sent. Whether it was Yahshua's name or not is not the point. Many people are healed today and demons are cast out, because they reject them. They had the desire and the faith to do it and the man who prayed for them had faith somehow. The brain released its healing properties to heal their bodies either by faith or psychological means. This work did not result in the overthrow of Satan's throne on earth and bringing back the Messiah and His Kingdom. It did not make the Father's name hallowed nor did it accomplish His

will. Matthew 7:21. But if

they were sent it would have had consequential effect to the overthrow of Satan's kingdom.

Matthew 10:41,42. He who receives a prophet because he is a prophet who was sent — *in the name of a prophet* means he was in fact a prophet, a righteous man because he is a righteous man — because he was sent and no falsehood was in him — and whoever gives a disciple a cup of cold water — because they recognize that he is a disciple because he is one — will not lose his reward — not just because somebody gives you a drink. This man was a sent disciple who has probably gone through much suffering as mentioned in Matthew 10:34-39. A disciple is a disciple because he is a disciple.