

Disciple of Christ Study: Lesson 7 Worship in Christ

Purpose of study: *Live life as a disciple of Christ and intentionally make disciples for the glory of the triune God. A disciple is a “student” or “follower” who learns, studies, and acts in accordance to the teachings of Christ, the Master.*

Lesson 7: Worship in Christ (Day One) *Worship on the High Seas*

Understanding the New Covenant brings truth, vitality and power into our lives. We hope you will keep the summary pages of the New Covenant (Lesson 6) tucked into your Bible for easy reference and strength for each new day. Christ wants you to be strong in mind and spirit to make disciples and expand God's kingdom.

Expanding the kingdom means increasing worshippers in spirit and truth. It means people are free of their sins and able to live a good and purposeful life. They have the opportunity to take hold of the New Covenant with Jesus as their King, and all the promises that come through Him.

John Williams (1796-1839) joined Christ in expanding the kingdom in a most unique and dangerous mission field. He grew up in London, England, but his service area was a full-year ship's voyage away. As a youth, he would never have imagined his life on the high seas serving Jesus. He thought "religion" boring. His mother had taken him to church every Sunday, but as soon as he was 17, and on his own, he had no intention of ever returning.

One Sunday he was waiting for some friends to go to a beer garden. The wife of his employer walked by and invited him to church. He served as an apprentice (trainee) in iron works, and in those days employers had quite a bit of control over their employees. He did not want to offend the wife by his refusal to go, nor did he want to tell her about the beer. Therefore, he grudgingly agreed to join her.

Later, he would say it was the best hour of his life. He was especially moved by Mark 8:36-37: *What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?³⁷ Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?* The Holy Spirit moved his heart and he made a decision to follow Christ.

He studied the Bible, attended church and visited the sick. Although his co-workers made fun of his new faith and behavior, John did not care. He had found Jesus and a reason for living.

A couple of years later, his pastor was talking about the London Missionary Society (LMS). He was sharing how they had sent a group of 30 missionaries to one of the most remote and unknown regions on earth: the South Pacific islands. These islands include New Hebrides, Fiji, Samoa, Cook Islands, Tahiti and hundreds of others.

From the 30 missionaries that were sent to these islands, murder, sickness and discouragement reduced their number to only three. Although we romanticize these islands now, they were filled with fierce warriors and idol worshippers. They regularly cooked and ate their enemies as well as sacrificing their children to their gods. This was a dangerous mission field. And yet, the need for missionaries stirred John's heart.

He began simply by praying for these people to come forward. But each time he prayed, the Holy Spirit stirred his heart with the urgency and desire to take the gospel to the islands himself. Although there were many obstacles to his going, God worked out each one and at the age of 20, he and his new wife boarded a ship to the South Pacific.¹

1. How would you feel about traveling a full year to arrive at your mission field?

****See end of lesson for repeat of questions and blank spaces for you to write your answers.**

2. How would you feel about going to islands with fierce warriors and cannibals?

3. How are you praying for missionaries or the need for more?

John was going to a place where he could not depend on meeting other Christians in need of discipling. His first step was to learn the language and turn idol worshippers into true worshippers in truth and spirit. His was a process that *would* lead to a strong discipleship program. In the meantime, John was worshipping God by obeying his call to the South Pacific.

Definition: In the New Testament, the Greek word most frequently used for worship is *proskuneo* (προσκυνέω). It means to express in attitude or gesture one's complete dependence or submission to a high authority figure. It also means to (fall down and) worship, do obeisance, to prostrate oneself before, do reverence to and to welcome respectfully. Obeisance is defined as moving the body in a way to show reverence or respect, such as bowing.

The disciple in worship is completely dependent on God and submits to His high authority. Another Greek word, *latreuo* (λατρεύω) which is also translated worship means to serve and minister. In your dependence and submission to God, you serve according to His will.

John Williams believed God was calling him to take the gospel to the natives in the South Pacific and He obeyed. He submitted himself to God's will and thus worshipped the Lord. Worship is really a way of life. It starts the moment we accept Jesus' invitation to believe in Him and follow God's plan for our lives.

In John's case, God had stirred his heart to this dangerous mission. John *wanted* to go to these devil-infested islands. However, sometimes we may feel God calling us to do something and we hesitant. The task may seem to put our life at stake, and we may be afraid or anxious.

¹ Bengel, Janet and Geoff, "John Williams, Messenger of Peace," YWAM Publishers, Seattle, Washington, 2002.

We also may hesitate for fear of failure. This means that we care more for our reputation than we care about God's plans. It also means that we do not trust God enough to step out in faith.

Another reason we may hesitate is the difficulty of the task or mission. God is calling us out of our comfort zones. He wants us to grow and trust Him in new and unique situations. He wants us to trust in Him and not our own abilities, personalities or talents.

Definition: The term comfort zone is a noun meaning a place, situation, or level where someone feels confident and comfortable.

4. What is God calling you to do?
5. Are you excited or hesitant (overly cautious) about the task or mission God has for you?
6. If you are hesitant about God's calling on your life, what will you do to increase your enthusiasm (zeal)?

Lesson 7: Worship in Christ (Day Two) *Closer to God*

Read John 14:6-7 and answer questions 7-11:

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.⁷ If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." John 14:6-7 (Jesus talking to His disciples)

7. How do you get to know God the Father?
8. Can you obey, depend on, or serve someone that you do not know? Why or Why not?
9. How well do you know Jesus and God the Father?
10. Would you like to know God in a deeper and more significant way? Yes No (Circle One)
11. What do you think is keeping you from a closer relationship with the triune God?

Although I have been walking with the Lord 20 years, I am still seeking to know Him better. I *really* want to know God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit more deeply and fully. However, like our sanctification (make holy), it is a process. We will not be perfect nor will we perfectly know our triune God until we reach heaven and see Him face to face.

Read James 4:7-8 and answer questions 12-14:

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. James 4:7-8a (Also read John 14:21)

12. List the two commands we are given in verse 7:

13. After we submit ourselves to God and resist the devil, what are we commanded to do (v. 8a)?

The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. Psalm 145:18

14. When you call on the LORD in truth, what promise are you given (v. 18)?

We can call on the Lord at any time. It could be when we are alone or in a crowd. It could be when we are safe or in a dangerous situation. God promises to be near. He may be near to save us from an earthly death or He may be near to call us to our eternal home in heaven.

John Williams faced many dangers. In July 1832, he mistakenly landed on the Island of Atiu. This island was home to some of the fiercest warriors in the Cook Islands. They regularly ordered children to be sacrificed and raided other island villages. They would cook their enemies and eat them in honor of the many gods they worshipped.

Amazingly, God opened their hearts to the gospel. The chief gave his life to the Lord and others followed. After a few years, they called their island Lotu - given to God.

John did not stay a long time on any one island, but did visit as he was able. On one visit to the island of Atiu, an enormous freak wave swept over his rowboat. John was flung into the surging waters and was being pulled deeper by the undercurrent.

He called out to God. "I can't drown! I can't drown! There are too many islands to go! I have to reach them all!"

He kicked harder and harder, and slowly he began to rise. Finally his head burst through the water surface, and he was able to breathe. A few deep breaths and wham! He was hit by another powerful wave that flung him onto the coral reef. His left leg was torn open by the sharp coral. Many people, including expert Polynesian sailors, had died on the reefs.

Again, he cried out, "God help me!" He fought to get away from the reef until he had no strength left. Suddenly, two Aitu men grabbed him and swam with him away from the reef and to safety.²

Read Hebrews 10:19-23 and answer questions 15-17:

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:19-23

15. What gives you confidence to enter into the presence of God (v. 19)?

² Ibid.

16. Who is our great priest over the house of God (v. 21)?
17. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, what can we now do (v. 22)?
18. Pray each morning this week to draw closer to God, the *Father*. Seek Him with all your heart and soul. Share how God is answering your prayer:
19. Pray each morning this week to draw closer to God, the *Son*. Seek Him with all your heart and soul. Share how God is answering your prayer:
20. Pray each morning this week to draw closer to God, the *Holy Spirit*. Seek Him with all your heart and soul. Share how God is answering your prayer:

Lesson 7: Worship in Christ (Day Three) *Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life*

Definition: Resurrection is the bodily, living appearance of Jesus of Nazareth after He died and was buried. It is also the doctrine, event, and act of persons being brought from death to unending life at the close of the age. The Greek term *anastaasis* (ἀνάστασις) means "to rise" or "to stand again."³

Bill and Gloria Gaither wrote their first song together about 40 years ago. They have now written more than 600 songs and produced 60 recordings and several musicals. Their musical genre (type) is known as Southern Gospel. But like us, they have had challenges.

"During the late 1960s, while expecting their third child, they went through a rather traumatic time. While Bill was recovering from a bout with mononucleosis, he and Gloria and other members in their church family were the objects of false accusations and belittlement. It was a special time of fear and torment for Gloria. With all the craziness surrounding her family, the thought of bringing another child into the world was taking its toll on her.

She remembers sitting in their living room in agony and fear on New Year's Eve. Across the nation, the educational system was being infiltrated with the "God is dead" idea, while drug abuse and racial tensions were increasing. Then, suddenly and quite unexpectedly, she was filled with a sweet, calming peace. Like an attentive mother bending over her baby, it was as if her heavenly Father saw His Gloria and came to her rescue. Her panic gave way to a calmness and an assurance that only the Lord can give. She was assured that the future would be just fine, left in God's hands.

Both Bill and Gloria remembered that the power of the blessed Holy Spirit seemed to come to their aid. The power of Christ's resurrection was reaffirmed in their lives and in their thoughts. To Gloria, it was "life conquering death" as joy once again permeated the fearful circumstances of their lives.

³ Butler, Trent, Editor, *Holman Bible Dictionary*, Homan Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN, 1991. pp. 1178-1179.

All of this gave rise to one of the most famous Southern Gospel songs of our time, "Because He Lives." The first verse is a presentation of the gospel of Christ, reminding us of His death, burial, and resurrection. As we realize that God holds the future and makes life worth living for all who trust in Him, we can face tomorrow with all the uncertainty it brings."⁴

Christ's resurrection provides the reason and hope for our own resurrection. Death could not hold Jesus, and it cannot hold us. We have a living King who is worthy of our worship and praise.

Because He Lives:

God sent his son
They called him Jesus
He came to love
Heal and forgive
He lived and died
To buy my pardon
An empty grave
Is there to prove
My Savior lives
(There are two other verses not included)

(Chorus)

Because he lives
I can face tomorrow
Because he lives
All fear is gone
Because I know
He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because he lives

Read John 11:25 and answer questions 21-23:

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"
John 11:25 (Speaking to Martha at the tomb of Lazarus)

21. What did Jesus mean when He said, "I am the resurrection and the life"?

22. How can you live, even though you die?

⁴ Terry, Lindsay, The Story Behind the Song, Courage and Strength for His Child: "Because He Lives."
http://www.cbn.com/spirituallife/devotions/terry_because_he_lives.aspx

On November 20, 1839, John William's missionary ship was making its rounds visiting established and new islands. At one of the new islands, Erromanga, they dropped anchor and watched as a canoe with three men paddled out from the shore.

After some discussion, John and several of his crew decided to row to shore. Although the Erromangan men seemed particularly shy, all seemed to be going well when John and another of his men, decided to go for a short walk. They had not gone too far when one of his men, James, yelled to run for the boat.

John dashed into the sea, but three natives wielding clubs were close on his heels. They hit him on the back of his head and stripped his bloodied body. They dragged him and James into the bushes and they were never seen again.

John William's mission was one of peace and therefore, there was little anyone on the rowboat or ship could do. With great sadness, the crew turned and sailed on to Sydney. They would request a navy ship be sent to recover the bodies of the two men. However, the bodies were never recovered and it was later determined that both John and James had been eaten by the Erromangans.⁵

23. Using John 11:25 as a reference, where is John Williams today?

Jesus' resurrection is the source of a purposeful life on earth and an eternal life in heaven. John Williams is not dead. Yes, his body is gone from the earth, but he is alive in heaven.

Life is dark without the Lord Jesus. John Williams had received the light of life and desired others to receive it also. He accepted his call and went to an extremely dark land, a land filled with savage cannibals to bring them the "Resurrection and the Life."

Like the Lord Jesus he followed, he was willing to give up his life. Read some of his last words in his journal: "Ere (before) long some friend will communicate to surviving relatives the information of our death. The grand concern should be to live in a constant state of preparation. I am all anxiety (sense of trouble) but desire prudence and faithfulness in the management of the attempt to impart (pass on) the gospel to these benighted (moral darkness) people and leave the event with God."⁶ (Words in parentheses by author of study)

Read Romans 1:4-5 and answer questions 24-27:

*and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.*⁵ *Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.* Romans 1:4-5

Definitions: Apostle comes from the Greek word *apostolos* (ἄποστολος). It means one sent or messenger. Ship at the end of a word (suffix) means the state of condition of being.

⁵ Ibid. pp. 190-194.

⁶ Ibid. p. 194.

Gentiles is a plural noun describing non-Jewish people, non-believers, pagans or the nations.

24. Who is the Spirit of holiness (v. 4)?
25. Who was Jesus declared to be by His resurrection from the dead (v. 4)?
26. What have we received through Jesus and for His name's sake (v. 5a)?
27. Why have we received grace and a mission from God (v. 5b)?

Today, the word apostle is mostly used to refer to Jesus' twelve disciples and Paul. However, the sense of the word applies to us as disciples of Christ. We are being sent to a lost world by Jesus Christ Himself. We are on mission for His name's sake to share the truth with others in order for them to make Jesus their Lord. Like us, they are to obey God in faith.

You may not be called to dark islands with cannibals, but your mission field may be every bit as dangerous. Be encouraged, the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is at work to make Him known. He is also at work through you to make disciples and exalt the name of Christ.

When John Williams died, his work in the islands did not die with him. He had worked diligently to teach and train the Polynesian Christians to be active disciples. At the time of his death, some of these formerly pagan islanders, were taking the gospel to other islands and allowing the Holy Spirit to work through them.⁷

But remember, it was hard work. First, John had to learn the language and customs so that he could communicate the gospel effectively. Second, he developed an alphabet and taught them how to read and write. Third, he lived according to God's Word. Fourth, he taught them how to live according to God's word. Fifth, he established churches and appointed leaders. Sixth, John translated the Bible into the new written language.

No matter how difficult and dangerous John's work seemed, God was with him. He opened up pagan hearts to believe and understand His word. Their depth of knowledge and commitment to the Lord amazed and inspired others.

No matter how difficult and dangerous your work may seem, God is with you. He will open up hearts to believe and understand His word. Keep up the good work of discipleship. God will increase your depth of knowledge and commitment in a way that will amaze and inspire others.

God's Spirit raised Jesus from the dead in power, and that power is at work in and through us. The Holy Spirit convicts non-believers of their sin and their need of the Savior. The Spirit's power is most effective through those who live in Jesus.

Lesson 7: Worship in Christ (Day Four) *Our position in Christ*

⁷ Ibid. p. 143.

We can live in Jesus because He is alive. After the crucifixion Jesus presented Himself as the living one, the source of life. He triumphed over death and brought us eternal life. He also brought us a new and living covenant to empower us to be holy and fruitful.

Read Romans 6:8-11 and answer questions 28-30:

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Romans 6:8-11

28. How did you die with Christ (v. 9, 10-11)?

29. Can Jesus ever die again (v. 10)?

30. Jesus died to sin but lives to God. What are you commanded to do (v. 11)?

We are commanded to deem (judge, think) ourselves dead to sin but alive to God *in* Christ Jesus. Being in Christ is the same as being in union with Christ. It is a joining together.

“If you have got hold of this idea [union with Christ], you will have discovered the most glorious truth you will ever know in your life.” Martyn Lloyd-Jones

31. Pray: Christ Jesus, I ask to understand what it means to be “in You.” Not only do I ask to understand the meaning of being “in Christ,” I ask to live out the meaning day by day, hour by hour and minute by minute. Thank You, my Lord. Amen.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
2 Corinthians 5:17

32. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. Why are *you* a new creation?

33. Pray: Holy Father, Help me to know Your Son so personally and intimately that I will be able to teach and show other disciples the meaning and reality of living “in Jesus.” Turn my eyes toward Christ, O God, so that He may turn my heart to You. Holy Spirit, lead us in righteous living and enlighten us to the truth of God in His word. Thank You. Amen.

What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.
Philippians 3:8-9

34. Read and meditate on Philippians 3:8-9. How does *your* life reflect these verses?

Definition: Union has various definitions, but for our purposes we mean the act and result of joining together. By union we also mean agreement or unity of interests and opinions. Synonyms of union are coming together, unification, blending, combination and merger.

Definitions: Test means to check the reliability of something. It means to examine, interpret or discern. Spirits, with a little "s," refer to people and spiritual beings. Not many of us will have an encounter with an angelic being, but if we do, we still need to examine what is being communicated. We test the spirits by comparing what is being said against what the Bible says on that subject. If there is not a specific subject in the Bible, we make a judgment based on how other topics are handled. With the Spirit's guidance, we can arrive at the truth.

Union with Christ has been called a mystical union in the sense that one cannot see it and it is difficult to describe. The word mystical in reference to the divine means that it is beyond human understanding. A mystic is one who undergoes or professes to undergo mystical experiences and thus understands truths beyond normal human capacity. Paul had divine or mystical experiences that would be hard to explain (Acts 9:3-7 and 2 Corinthians 4:2-4).

However, there are Christian mystics and there are satanic mystics. Sometimes even Christians may be deceived. Therefore, take Paul's excellent advice to test the spirits (1 John 4:1).

Because we believe in a relationship with God and have a record of His supernatural events throughout our history, Christianity is considered a mystical religion. "Mysticism, of course, frequently conjures up ideas about the negation of personality, withdrawal from objective reality, ascetic contemplation⁸, a searching out of pathways to perfection, and absorption into the divine – all of which is true for Eastern and Grecian forms of mysticism. The mysticism of the Bible, however, affirms the true personhood of people and all that God created in the natural world, never calling for negation or withdrawal except where God's creation has been contaminated by sin."⁹

As believers we know that we have a relationship with God through Christ. Our goal is to help you understand what that means for you. Again, some aspects of your union with Christ may be difficult to put into words, but other aspects are definable and the same for all Christians.

We understand and receive the truth of our union with Christ by God's revelation (disclosure). In other words, only God can reveal or make known the truth of our union and all that it means for us. The Bible is the written source of God's revelation. And Jesus is at the heart or center of the Bible and God's revelation of Himself.

Being in union with Christ is the same as our being "in Christ" and "Christ in us." It has been estimated that Paul used this expression, and similar ones such as "in the Lord," and "in Him," in his letters 164 times. This does not include the Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy and Titus). In

⁸ Many mystics, following the model of Paul's metaphor of the athlete, as well as the story of the disciples sleeping while Jesus prayed, disciplined their bodies through activities ranging from fasting and sleep-deprivation to more extreme forms, such as self-flagellation (whipping yourself). (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_mysticism)

⁹ Longenecker, Richard, N., *Galatians*, Volume 41, Word Biblical Commentary, Word Books, Dallas, TX, 1990. pp. 92-93

his manner of speaking, Paul used the expression to describe the reality of personal communion between Christians and God.¹⁰

There are aspects of this union that we feel or experience and aspects that we do not. For example, when you placed your trust in Jesus as your Savior, you may have stepped into that relationship solely on faith with no special kind of feeling whatsoever. Then again, you may have experienced God in an emotional way that you have great difficulty in expressing.

Your union with Christ is based on faith and not feelings. Experience and emotion are not proof of your union with Christ; obedience and fruit confirms your position in Him. It is Christ living through you that identifies you as belonging to God.

Read Romans 16:7 and answer questions 35-37:

Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was. Romans 16:7

35. Paul writes in his letter to the Romans to greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. What preposition (word) does Paul use in this verse to show their location in the physical world?

Yes, this man and woman were also in prison with Paul at a certain time. Prepositions connect nouns, pronouns and phrases to other words in a sentence. So “in” connects the proper nouns Andronicus and Junias to the noun prison.

Prepositions describe time, space (location) or other kinds of reasonable relationships between other words in a sentence. The Bible tells us that when we trust or place our faith in Christ that we are connected or linked in time and space to Him. He brings us into a real and personal relationship with God. In other words, we are ushered into spiritual communion with God that is natural and active.

It is an intimate (close) relationship whereby God speaks or impresses upon our hearts and minds His will and desire for us. Remember that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one. Thus the Holy Spirit quietly works within us directing, counseling, comforting and strengthening us for God’s glory. Christ’s Spirit indwelling us is “Christ in us.”

36. Paul also say that Andronicus and Junias "were _____ Christ before I was."

37. How does being "in Christ" correspond (similar or equal) to worship?

We respond to the gospel of Jesus in faith and we respond to our union with Jesus in faith. The Christian experience from A to Z and everything in the middle is about trusting in God. We trust Him to save us, to relate to us, live in us and to bring us to eternal life.

¹⁰ Ibid. 93.

When we trust and obey God, we are worshipping Him. Being one with Christ gives us the confidence to know we are in our Father's will. We are walking according to His purposes and ways. We are using our hearts and bodies to honor and serve God.

38. Do you know Jesus Christ as a real Person? Yes No Not Sure (Circle One) Explain your answer:

39. Do you pray daily (talk and listen to God)? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One) Why or why not?

"In" – A little but important word

The Greek work that we translate in is en (ἐν - in, on, at; near, by, before; among, within; by, with; into) and can have many and varied meanings. Based on the Greek-English Lexicon (dictionary) by William Frederick Danker, there are two main definitions of "en" that describe the meaning for our union with Christ. The first (A) is a marker of a position and the second (B) is the marker of close association or relationship.

A. In can be defined as a marker (indicator, sign, pointer) of a position.

That position is defined as being in a location of the space or place within which something is found. One definition of being "in Christ" means that you are spiritually linked in time and space to the Son of God. Put another way, our location or position in this world and the next, is "in Christ." Our identity rests "in Jesus." It is Jesus' name and character that constitutes who you are as a disciple of Christ. (Recall DOC Lesson 3, Identity in Christ.)

Read and meditate Ephesians 1:3 and answer questions 40-43:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3

40. What causes the apostle Paul to praise God?

41. What word (adjective) does Paul use to describe the extent (degree) of your spiritual blessings in the heavenly realms?

42. How does the truth of this verse link you in time and space to the Son of God?

43. How will the truth of this verse change the way *you* think and serve Christ?

In *Return of the King*, the third movie in the series *Lord of the Rings* (book by J.R.R. Tolkien), Elrond visits Aragorn as the troops are preparing for battle against the dark and evil Sauron. Aragorn was the rightful heir to the throne of Gondor but he had refused it. Instead he roamed the land as a ranger doing good things but not making the important impact that he could by taking his rightful place as king.

Elrond had the sword that belonged to the previous king of Gondor and, offering it to Aragorn, he said, "Put aside the ranger; become who you were born to be." Aragorn took the sword and went forth to be who he was born to be. He was born to be a leader to save the people of middle earth. He took his charge bravely and seriously. He led his forces to defeat the enemies of middle earth.

Our enemy Satan and his forces are not unlike Sauron and his evil orcs that roamed middle earth seeking to destroy it. King Jesus has already won the war, but there are many individual battles to be won for men and women's souls. Leaders need to take the message of Christ crucified and risen into the world. People need to hear of our King who died so that they might live. Put aside the ranger; become who you were born to be.

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. Ephesians 1:4-6

44. Read Ephesians 1:4-6. Who were you born (again) to be?

When you were "born again" (John 3:3), you became an adopted son of the God Most High with all inheritance rights. Men and women become sons, meaning heirs to God's promise (Genesis 12:1-3 and Galatians 3:26-29) and are to live in the victory and leadership that your position demands. It demands that you become the fruitful carrier of the gospel so that all nations are blessed through Christ. The term "son" was used make one's spiritual reality become meaningful through the cultural inheritance customs of the time period.

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:6-7

45. Read Ephesians 2:6-7. Where is your *spiritual* position and location "in Christ"?

From Ephesians 1:4 and 2:6, you know that "in Christ," you are holy and blameless and seated in the heavenly realms as adopted sons of God. That is our spiritual position. It is not a physical position because our bodies are here on earth, but it is official and genuine. It becomes official when one trusts in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment-- to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised

Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession-- to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:7-14

46. Read Ephesians 1:7-14 and list three markers (indicator or sign) that are also blessings that point to your exact position in Christ:

47. How does living up to your position in Christ honor God and express true worship?

Lesson 7: Worship in Christ (Day Five) *Surrender*

B. *In* is also defined as the marker (indicator, sign, pointer) of close association or relationship in which referent is viewed as the controlling influence. Referent is the person or thing that a symbol (as a word or sign) stands for.

In the case of our being “in Jesus” or Jesus being “in us,” He is our controlling influence. *Willingly*, we place ourselves under His control. In other words, we surrender. We yield our lives to Jesus' control.

As Christians we seem to understand that we have a personal relationship with Christ but do not always recognize the parameter (limit, boundary) of our intimacy with Him. We surrender ourselves to God and live through His Spirit. God's Spirit, Christ's Spirit and the Holy Spirit are one and the same.

Definition: Crucify means to put someone to death by nailing or binding them to a cross.

Even before Jesus died and rose from the dead, He used the cross to teach about a surrendered life. He used the cross as a symbol of true discipleship (Mark 8:34; Matthew 16:24 and Luke 9:23). True discipleship is a total commitment and surrender to God.

The apostle Paul understood Jesus' teaching and also used the cross figuratively. We are to nail sinful actions and desires to the cross. Any worldly desires that interfere with our commitment to God must be killed. Sin must die so the new, holy person may blossom, thrive and prosper.

Read Galatians 2:20-21 and answer Questions 48-51:

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!" Galatians 2:20-21 (Also see Galatians 5:24-25 below)

48. What does the apostle Paul mean when he says, *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me* (v. 20a)?

49. How do these verses confirm that Jesus is the controlling influence in *your* relationship with Him?

50. How does a disciple live in relationship with Jesus (v.20b)?

51. How do we gain righteousness (v. 21)?

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Galatians 5:24-25

52. Read Galatians 5:24-25. Is there any part of your flesh or sinful nature that you are not crucifying? Explain.

53. Focus on your union with Christ while meditating on Romans 6:1-14. What did God reveal to you through this passage?

54. Write a short summary of what it means to be “in Christ.”

55. Ask each of your disciples what it means to him or her to be “in Christ.” What was interesting about their answers?

56. Ask God every morning this week: “How may I glorify You this day? And pray, 'O God, glorify Yourself through me this day. Let me not miss Your grace to honor and please You.' How did God glorify Himself through you?”

One of the ways you are worshipping God is through your relationship with your disciple. Discipling is a command (Matthew 28:19) that you are obeying. You are working in God's will and honoring Him by spending time both to teach and to fellowship with your disciples.

We are spending a lot of time on the learning aspect of discipleship, but the friendship is important, also. Loving God with all our hearts is the first commandment, and the second is to love our neighbor. Therefore, love your disciples.

With each lesson, take some time to get to know him or her on a personal level. Give him your full attention and be interested in what they are saying. Ask the Holy Spirit to make you interested!

Make sure that you do not look upon your students as projects but as individuals wholly created and loved by God. Think of ways to enjoy and serve them. Certainly pray for them.

57. What is one interesting or personal thing that you have learned about each of your disciples?

Do not be discouraged if you do all that the Lord asks and your student decides not to continue with you. We cannot control anyone. We are only to love and share our knowledge of the Lord.

Although you may have surrendered your life to Jesus, you cannot make anyone else give up control of their life to God. In the same vein, you are not responsible for your disciples growth in the Lord. You are responsible for following God yourself and doing what He asks of you. You will be rewarded on your faithfulness to the Lord, not on other people's faithfulness.

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.⁸ The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.

1 Corinthians 3:6-8

58. Read 1 Corinthians 3:6-8. Explain what these verses mean for *you* as a discipler:

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. John 8:31

59. Read John 8:31. How can we really be Jesus' disciples?

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him,⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:6

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Lesson 7

CLI Disciple of Christ Study: Worship in Christ

Return your answers to your Discipler for discussion and review. Include your own personal letter and comments with your answers. The Disciple of Christ ministry is designed to forge a close, yet professional, friendship between you and your Discipler. Letters or short notes help bridge the distance and connect hearts in Christ.

Name: _____ Number: _____ Date: _____

Name of Institution: _____ Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

1. How would you feel about traveling a full year to arrive at your mission field?

2. How would you feel about going to islands with fierce warriors and cannibals?

3. How are you praying for missionaries or the need for more? _____

4. What is God calling you to do? _____

5. Are you excited or hesitant (overly cautious) about the task or mission God has for you?

6. If you are hesitant about God's calling on your life, what will you do to increase your enthusiasm (zeal)? _____

Lesson 7: Worship in Christ (Day Two) *Closer to God*

7. How do you get to know God the Father? _____

8. Can you obey, depend on, or serve someone that you do not know? Yes No (Circle One)

Why or Why not? _____

9. How well do you know Jesus and God the Father? _____

10. Would you like to know God in a deeper and more significant way? Yes No (Circle One)

11. What do you think is keeping you from a closer relationship with the triune God?

12. List the two commands we are given in verse 7: _____

13. After we submit ourselves to God and resist the devil, what are we commanded to do (v. 8a)?

14. When you call on the LORD in truth, what promise are you given (v. 18)?

15. What gives you confidence to enter into the presence of God (v. 19)?

16. Who is our great priest over the house of God (v. 21)?_____

17. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, what can we now do (v. 22)?

18. Pray each morning this week to draw closer to God, the *Father*. Seek Him with all your heart and soul. Share how God is answering your prayer:_____

19. Pray each morning this week to draw closer to God, the *Son*. Seek Him with all your heart and soul. Share how God is answering your prayer:_____

20. Pray each morning this week to draw closer to God, the *Holy Spirit*. Seek Him with all your heart and soul. Share how God is answering your prayer:_____

Lesson 7: Worship in Christ (Day Three) *Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life*

21. What did Jesus mean when He said, "I am the resurrection and the life?"

22. How can you live, even though you die?_____

23. Using John 11:25 as a reference, where is John Williams today?_____

24. Who is the Spirit of holiness (v. 4)?_____

25. Who was Jesus declared to be by His resurrection from the dead (v. 4)? _____

26. What have we received through Jesus and for His name's sake (v. 5a)?

27. Why have we received grace and a mission from God (v. 5b)? _____

Lesson 7: Worship in Christ (Day Four) *Union with Christ*

28. How did you die with Christ (v. 9, 10-11)? _____

29. Can Jesus ever die again (v. 10)? _____

30. Jesus died to sin but lives to God. What are you commanded to do (v. 11)?

31. Pray: Christ Jesus, I ask to understand what it means to be “in You?” Not only do I ask to understand the meaning of being “in Christ,” I ask to live out the meaning day by day, hour by hour. Thank you, my Lord. Amen

32. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. Why are you a new creation? _____

33. Pray: Holy Father, Help me to know Your Son so personally and intimately that I will be able to teach and show other disciples the meaning and reality of living “in Jesus.” Turn my eyes toward Christ, O God, so that He may turn my heart to You. Holy Spirit, lead us in righteous living and enlighten us to the truth of God in His word. Thank my Lord. Amen.

34. Read and meditate on Philippians 3:8-9. How does *your* life reflect these verses?

35. Paul writes in his letter to the Romans to greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. What preposition (word) does Paul use in this verse to show their location in the physical world? _____

36. Paul also say that Andronicus and Junias "were _____ Christ before I was."

37. How does being in Christ correspond (similar or equal) to worship?

38. Do you know Jesus Christ as a real Person? Yes No Not Sure (Circle One) Explain your answer:_____

39. Do you pray daily (talk and listen to God)? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One) Why or why not?_____

40. What causes the apostle Paul to praise God?_____

41. What word (adjective) does Paul use to describe the extent (degree) of your spiritual blessings in the heavenly realms?_____

42. How does the truth of this verse link you in time and space to the Son of God?

43. How will the truth of this verse change the way *you* think and serve Christ?

44. Read Ephesians 1:4-6. Who were you born (again) to be?_____

45. Read Ephesians 2:6-7. Where is your *spiritual* position and location “in Christ”?

46. Read Ephesians 1:7-14 and list three markers (indicator or sign) that are also blessings that point to your exact position in Christ: (1. _____
(2. _____
(3. _____

47. How does living up to your position in Christ honor God and express true worship?

Lesson 7: Worship in Christ (Day Five) *Surrender*

48. What does the apostle Paul mean when he says, *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me* (v. 20a)? _____

49. How do these verses confirm that Jesus is the controlling influence in *your* relationship with Him? _____

50. How does a disciple live in relationship with Jesus (v.20b)? _____

51. How do we gain righteousness (v. 21)? _____

52. Read Galatians 5:24-25. Is there any part of your flesh or sinful nature that you are not crucifying? Explain: _____

53. Focus on your union with Christ while meditating on Romans 6:1-14. What did God reveal to you through this passage? _____

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55. Ask each of your disciples what it means to him or her to be “in Christ.” What was interesting about their answers? _____

56. Ask God every morning this week: “How may I glorify You this day? And pray, 'O God, glorify Yourself through me this day. Let me not miss Your grace to honor and please You.'”

How did God glorify Himself through you? _____

57. What is one interesting or personal thing that you have learned about each of your disciples?

58. Read 1 Corinthians 3:6-8. Explain what these verses mean for *you* as a discipler:

59. Read John 8:31. How can we really be Jesus' disciples? _____

Next: Lesson 8: Holy is the Lord

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