



September 1, 2013

Discipleship and American Culture

Matthew 7:21-23

Opening Questions:

1. Are you a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ?
2. Have you embraced American's cheap grace mentality?
3. Cheap grace has become the deadly enemy of today's church. How has your church at Clements dealt with Casual Christianity?
4. What is your attitude toward your church's opinion?
5. The Bible speaks nothing of a "grace without cost". Does your church promote grace without cost?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, grace without discipleship, baptism without discipline, and Communion without confession; Whereas, true biblical grace will cost a man his life."

Every follower of Jesus Christ should be able to answer two simple questions:

1. **Who is investing into my life?**
2. **Whose life am I investing in?**

The tragedy of the 21st Century church is that we have subtly and tragically minimized the Great Commission into a comfortable call for Christians to come, be baptized, and sit in their local church and do absolutely nothing with their faith.

Definition of discipleship:

Discipleship is the developmental process of the local church that develops spiritually immature Christians into mature saints that reproduce themselves into someone else.

A disciple is a "student" or "learner" of the things of God. A disciple is someone whose belief has been accompanied by a life of obedience.

Belief must be accompanied by obedience. Only those who are obedient to the words of Jesus will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. If our lives do not reflect the life of Jesus, then we are fools to think that we are going to heaven when we die.

Five things happen when we repent:

1. Our minds change.
2. Our desires change.
3. Our wills change.
4. Our relationships change.
5. Our reasons for living change.

Closing questions:

- ✚ Are you following close to Jesus? Or are you walking at a guilty distance?
- ✚ Did you really get saved? Or did you only go forward and sign a card?
- ✚ Did you repent and pray out of deep repentance, or did you just say a “magic prayer”?
- ✚ Did you get baptized to identify with the body and resurrection of Jesus? Or did you place more faith in the water than you did the blood?

Barna Research Results:

1. 4 out of 5 Americans identify themselves as Christians.
2. Less than half of those that identify themselves as Christians are involved in a church on a weekly basis.
3. Less than half of those that attend church on a weekly basis actually believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God.
4. Most people today describe themselves as marginally committed to Jesus Christ.
5. In April, 2009, research showed that “Most American Christians do not believe that Satan or the Holy Spirit exists.”