

## Pursuing The Jesus Way

### Living Where He Lives

As we begin to grasp this new paradigm of thinking, we must realize that transitioning into being a disciple of Jesus must be built on the life and role of Jesus. We are challenged to fully follow Him for where He is and what He offers us through His role.

In discipleship then, our aim is simply to live where Jesus lives and embrace His role toward us. This begins with reconsidering his position in the Trinity and realizing that, as new creations in Christ, we are also positioned where He lives. Our pursuit then is to functionally operate in this trinitarian position more and more in the reality of every-day life.

In every way that Jesus lived in human form, we too must pursue that same pattern. Just as Jesus lived His life in full submission to the will of the Father, we too must submit to the will of the Father. Rather than pursuing a life molded in the shape of our own dreams, passions, and choices, as disciples of Jesus, we must willfully and humbly submit to the will of our Father. Because we are now united with Christ, we must use our wills to embrace His lifestyle. As He chose the Father's will over His own, we too must pursue that paradigm of thinking and responding.

Jesus also modeled a lifestyle that was led and empowered by the Holy Spirit. In the same fashion that the Spirit descended on Jesus at His baptism to empower Him, we too are empowered by the Holy Spirit. He is a promise to us and a down payment of a reality to come in the future, but the reality of that future can and must be pursued today. We have been given spiritual gifts by Him in order to fully empower and equip us to serve God more fully.

### Grace and Truth in Love

We must also consider the unique and specific role that Jesus Himself has in the Trinity. As the deliverer of the Father's grace and truth to us, Jesus must be pursued both in knowledge through the Bible and in experience within our spirits. The grace and truth that He provides practically informs us of who we are and what has been spiritually accomplished in us through His work for us on the cross. Not only that, but we experience spiritual change and transformation when this truth is deeply considered, meditated and focused on, and willfully embraced in the context of our human emotions and experiences in a fallen world. We must embrace not only where Jesus Himself lived as our new home, but we must also embrace Him for the truth and grace He provides to us.

Lastly, we must continue to grow in our understanding of and functioning in the rich synergy and unity in which the Trinity functions in our lives. We are deeply changed and transformed as we grow in living in the interconnecting work of the Trinity in us. Jesus provides grace and truth to us through the empowering Spirit, all of which is always aligned with the will of the Father. The more we know and pursue this lifestyle, the more we attain to true life.

The following diagram builds on the previous one and gives a picture of the biblical paradigm in discipleship that we must pursue.