

# Discipleship 101: Surrender and Lordship

## Purpose of This Study

This in-depth Bible study explores **biblical discipleship** through the twin lenses of **surrender** and **the lordship of Jesus Christ**. Discipleship is not merely learning information about Jesus; it is a transformed life lived under His authority. This study aims to move learners from belief to obedience, from admiration to submission, and from decision to devotion.

**Key Truth:** Salvation brings us to Christ as Savior; discipleship keeps us under Christ as Lord.

## I. Surrender: The Foundation of Discipleship

### A. What Is Biblical Surrender?

Surrender is the **voluntary yielding of our will, rights, and control to God**. It is not passive resignation but active trust.

#### **Romans 12:1 (ESV):**

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

A living sacrifice implies daily, continual surrender—not a one-time moment.

### B. Jesus’ Teaching on Surrender

Jesus made surrender non-negotiable for discipleship.

#### **Luke 9:23–24 (ESV):**

“And he said to all, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.’”

Key elements of surrender:

- **Deny self** – surrendering personal agenda
- **Take up the cross daily** – embracing sacrifice and obedience
- **Follow Me** – submitting to Christ’s leadership

### C. The Cost of Partial Surrender

Partial surrender is still resistance. Jesus addressed this clearly.

#### **Luke 14:33 (ESV):**

“So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.”

Discipleship requires holding nothing back—possessions, relationships, ambitions, or identity.

## II. Lordship: Jesus as Master and King

### A. Understanding Lordship

The word *Lord* (Greek **kyrios**) means *owner, master, one with absolute authority*. To call Jesus Lord is to acknowledge His right to rule every area of life.

#### **Romans 10:9 (ESV):**

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Biblical faith includes submission to Christ’s authority, not just agreement with facts about Him.

### B. Lordship Declared by Jesus

#### **Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV):**

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.’”

Jesus’ authority is:

- **Total** – all authority
- **Universal** – heaven and earth
- **Practical** – expressed through obedience

Discipleship means learning to obey everything Jesus commands, not selecting what is convenient.

### C. Lordship Tested by Obedience

#### **Luke 6:46 (ESV):**

“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”

Lordship is proven, not proclaimed. Obedience is the visible evidence of surrendered hearts.

## III. The Tension Between Self-Rule and Christ’s Rule

### A. The Natural Desire for Control

Human nature resists surrender. We prefer Jesus as helper rather than master.

#### **Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV):**

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”

True discipleship confronts this tendency and calls believers to trust Christ’s wisdom over their own.

### B. Flesh vs. Spirit

**Galatians 2:20 (ESV):**

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”

Discipleship means dying to self-rule so that Christ may rule fully.

## **IV. Marks of a Surrendered Disciple**

### **1. Obedience**

**John 14:15 (ESV):**

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

### **2. Fruitfulness**

**John 15:5 (ESV):**

“Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit.”

### **3. Perseverance**

**Colossians 2:6–7 (ESV):**

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him...”

### **4. Servanthood**

**Mark 10:45 (ESV):**

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

## **V. Barriers to Surrender and Lordship**

Common obstacles include:

- Fear of loss
- Love of comfort
- Desire for autonomy
- Cultural Christianity

**Matthew 6:24 (ESV):**

“No one can serve two masters...”

Discipleship requires a decisive choice of allegiance.

## **VI. Living Out Surrendered Discipleship Today**

Practical expressions of surrender and lordship:

- Daily prayer of submission
- Scripture-shaped decision-making
- Faithful obedience in unseen areas
- Willingness to be corrected
- Commitment to the mission of Christ

**Colossians 3:17 (ESV):**

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

## **VII. Reflection and Application Questions**

1. What areas of your life are most difficult to surrender to Christ?
2. In what ways might you be acknowledging Jesus as Savior but resisting Him as Lord?
3. How does daily cross-bearing reshape your understanding of discipleship?
4. What practical step can you take this week to live more fully under Christ’s lordship?

## **Closing Exhortation**

Discipleship is not about perfection, but direction. A surrendered disciple does not claim control but confesses trust. When Jesus is truly Lord, obedience becomes joy, sacrifice becomes worship, and following Him becomes life itself.

**Philippians 3:8 (ESV):**

“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”