

Define the Relationship: Teacher and Disciples

Bryan Neisteter – October 18, 2026

We were made for relationship with God.

Psalms 27:4 “One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.”

We know coming to church is a good idea, we know that biblically we’re told to meet together — but at the heart of the matter what we’re really after is Him. We want to know Him. We want to encounter Him and be transformed by Him.

John 15:14-15 “You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

Jesus is inviting us into a place of deep friendship — a place where He wants to show us the deep things of the Father’s heart as we abide in Him.

Part of relationship with God, part of intimacy with Him, is walking in a way that honours and respects His heart. It requires that we walk in obedience to Jesus. He’s the teacher, we’re the disciples. And it’s the teacher-disciple relationship we want to dive into more deeply.

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Jesus is saying that a disciple is someone who obeys everything He has taught. The expectation is not that we would be perfect, but that we’d look a lot like the first disciples in many ways as we’re growing in obedience, in maturity, and walking in the power of the Holy Spirit. Obedience to the teacher is at the centre of being Jesus’ disciple, and obedience means doing the things Jesus instructs us to do and following in His footsteps.

What are the implications for this?

Our lives are supposed to look like Jesus’ life. It’s not enough that we know more information about God, it has to be lived out. As Christians our call is to be transformed by Him so that we can look increasingly like Him.

Romans 12:1-2 “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

One of the ways we need to relate to Jesus is as our teacher.

We want to approach Jesus as humble disciples who are ready to learn, to grow, and to change whatever we need to change. This is because we’re coming before a teacher who loves us, who cares for us, who is way smarter than us, and has our best interests at heart.

Jesus is a good teacher!

When you have a good teacher, it’s so much easier to learn!

Jesus is a teacher who is really good at what He does, who cares about you, is kind, has your best intentions at heart, and wants to see you transformed into a better person! God is asking of us in our relationship with Him to come under His authority.

God is looking for humble disciples. He's looking for men and women who love Him, who trust Him, and who gladly follow His ways because we know we serve a good leader and good teacher whose commands are for our good.

Obedience to Jesus is the entry point into the deeper things of God. It's where this relationship with Him gets fun and really deep.

Jesus says, "You are my friends if you do what I command..." the rewards, the promises, the power of the Holy Spirit, the intimacy, the encounters — these are largely reserved for those who will actually make Jesus their Lord, who will allow Him to be their teacher, and who let their lives be shaped by Him.

Is Jesus your teacher?

- 1) What has Jesus been teaching you in the last month?**
- 2) What are specific areas where you've grown in your relationship with God in the last year?**
- 3) When is the last time you took something, you learned on Sunday morning and applied it to your life?**
- 4) If the fruit of the Spirit is "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" — would you say you are walking in more of these right now than you were a year ago? 5 years ago?**

Discipleship is not about information, it's about transformation.

By not allowing ourselves to be actively transformed by God's work in us, we're not disciples. As we follow Him, as we allow Him to teach us and transform us, He starts to show us more of His heart and we get to see Him work in and through us.

What would God do through us if we'd simply obey Him?

John 14:12-14 "Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

In Psalm 2 the Father is speaking to the Son and says to Him, "Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession." (Psalm 2:8)

God wants to bring the nations to Christ. God wants to ignite our community and our region with a passion for Christ. He's looking for people that He can trust to work through. People who will obey. People who will humble themselves and let themselves be taught by Him. People who will respond to His direction and correction with humility because they love Him and trust Him.

Practicals:

- 1) God, what areas do you want me to grow in?**
- 2) God, what are the areas of my life where I'm actively resisting your leadership?**
- 3) God, what are the steps you're asking me to take in this season?**