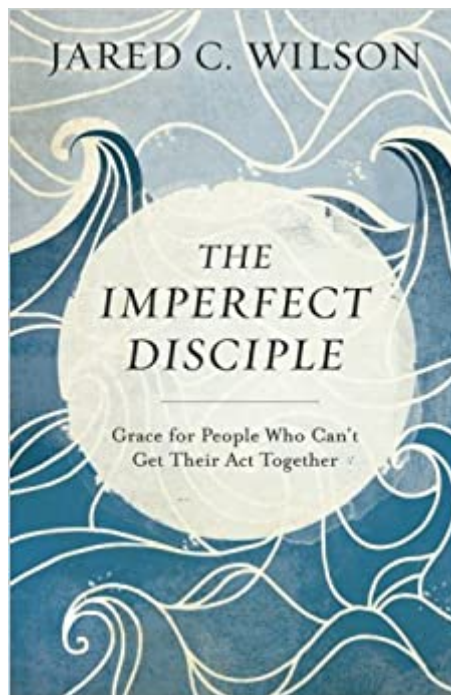




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The Imperfect Disciple: Grace For People Who Can't Get Their Act Together



Synopsis

Too many discipleship books are written for clean, perfect people who know all the right Sunday school answers. The Imperfect Disciple is for the rest of us--people who screw up, people who are weary, people who are wondering if it's safe to say what they're really thinking. For the believer who is tired of quasi-spiritual lifehacks being passed off as true, down-and-dirty discipleship, here is a discipleship book that isn't afraid to be honest about the mess we call real life. With incisive wit, warm humor, and moving stories, Jared Wilson shows readers how the gospel works in them and in their lives when- they can't get their act together- they think God is giving them the silent treatment- they think church would be better without all the people- they're not happy with the person in the mirror- and much more. Wilson frees readers from the self-doubt and even the misplaced self-confidence they may feel as they walk with Jesus down the often difficult road of life. The result is a faith that weathers storms, lifts burdens, and goes forth to make more imperfect disciples.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Too many discipleship books are written for perfect people who know all the right Sunday school answers. This book is for the rest of us--people who screw up, people who are weary, people who are wondering if it's safe to say what they're really thinking. With incisive wit, warm humor, and moving stories, Jared Wilson shows us how the gospel actually works through us and in us, even when we can't get our act together. The result is a faith that weathers storms, lifts burdens, and deepens our friendship with God. "Few things steal vitality and life in Christ like forgetting that we are

human. Jared does a great job, with his humorous yet serious style, reminding us of God's perfection in the midst of our inconsistencies, fears, and falls. The grace of God found in this book will encourage and remind the saint that there is only One who is perfect--and that perfection is enough for all who believe on the name of Jesus."--Matt Chandler, lead teaching pastor of The Village Church

Jared ties everything he has to say about being and loving disciples to the realities of what Jesus has already done. And that, dear friends, is what sets this wonderful book apart from all the others."--Elyse M. Fitzpatrick, counselor and speaker; author of *Because He Loves Me*

Wilson takes our idea of discipleship--you know, the list of things we need to do to be a perfectly obedient Christian--and turns it on its head. Discipleship is not about our to-do lists; it's about the glorious gospel. Wilson helps us refocus so that our obedience is no longer about us."--Trillia Newbell, author of *Enjoy, Fear and Faith*, and *United*

Jared C. Wilson is the director of content strategy for Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and managing editor of *For the Church*. He is the author of numerous books, including *Unparalleled*, *The Story of Everything*, *The Prodigal Church*, and *Gospel Wakefulness*. His blog, *The Gospel-Driven Church*, is hosted by the Gospel Coalition, and he speaks at numerous churches and conferences throughout the year.

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I found this book to be affirming and greatly encouraging. I would say it takes the Christian reader back to basics when it comes to understanding the gospel and sharing the gospel. I recommend this book for a few reasons: it's an easy read, filled with good stories, humor and emotion, yet it is a deep well. The reader will be inspired and encouraged in his faith.

This is one of the best books I've read in a long time!! I appreciated the authors writing style - Gospel truths, sense of humor, depth and still easy to read. Encouraged, inspired and convicted. A new desire to lean in. Jesus is the point!!!

This is a great down-to earth review. Easy to read and you feel like you are sitting in front of him, just talking. Great info

This is the best book on discipleship because it actually points following Jesus to Jesus. His grace truly is all we need!

Discipleship is the evangelical buzz-topic right now. As someone who serves on a church and is asked to think through discipleship on multiple levels, this book is a needed addition to the discipleship conversation. It's not a manual. It doesn't (specifically) help you think about how to multiply yourself by making other disciples. It won't turn your church into a disciple-making machine. It doesn't cover a lot of the traditional ground in discipleship-oriented books. And for all those reasons, I'd say start with this book if you're thinking about what discipleship is all about. This book excels exactly where so many books fall short. Wilson isn't interested in simply keeping the Christian busy with new activities that will help them move up to the Varsity squad of disciples, nor does he get caught up in the machinery of discipleship as if it's about packaging people on an assembly line (mix in a little discipline, a little doctrine, a good curriculum, a mentoring relationship, and then they should be good to go). What I appreciated most about this book, and why I'll recommend it, is that it's the only discipleship book I've come across where the focus isn't on becoming a super-strong Christian but the focus is on how Jesus and his grace can be made big in your weakness and imperfection. Many of the discipleship books I've read deal almost solely with the end-goal or the means, but they miss what we've actually been called to be and how that fleshes itself out in the life of someone who is simultaneously growing and failing (saint and sinner). The book is designed to help mature and includes sections with practical counsel for doing so, but overall it's more about the big picture of what the long journey of discipleship is: imperfect disciples striving to know, love, and follow a perfect Savior. Would this be the primary book I'd use to lead a class or ministry on discipleship? Maybe, but probably not. Would this be the first book I'd use to help a struggling Christian (read: normal Christian) learn that God's grace and strength is the real engine of discipleship, and intimacy with Christ is the destination? Yes. Each time I put down the book--which was often because I read it in sittings desperately hoping our new baby would fall asleep--I was thankful for the breath of fresh air in remembering that discipleship really can be as simple as learning to rest on Jesus as he carries me along. For those who've read Wilson's books, you'll recognize his trademark conversational style, guyish humor, sharp pen with vivid illustrations, and gospel-centered theology. It's in many ways very similar to Gospel Wakefulness in the themes it

covers, but of all Wilson's books this one is the most gritty, honest, and vulnerable. If discipleship includes the relational element of one believer bringing others along with him, this book feels as if Wilson is teaching us as friends across the table, sharing what he's learned by experience in the last decade in the church, in good times, and in the gutter.

This was a fantastic book full of encouragement and help straight from the Bible, applied in a way for everyone to understand and appreciate. The last few chapters of this book alone are worth the price of it. God used those last few chapters in powerful ways in my life. Make sure you have some kleenex ready, you'll probably be crying like a baby by the time you're finished.

Not sure where this book was headed. I THINK it is a testimony of one person's struggle to follow Jesus. At times it was too casual, in my opinion.

Wow, this book has given words to my feelings. Get this book, it's changing me deep inside and showing me the real Jesus. The Jesus I been wanting to know and see and has given the hope I have been looking for in other things I've read. It's showing me the gospel and opening my eyes to see that I am a normal Christian. Not perfect, normal. This line in the book rocked me, "Our discipleship has to deal with this tension—the tension between the glorious reality we believe in and yearn for and the hard reality we currently live in every day—or else it's not the real Jesus we're following." I want to follow the real Jesus, not the caricature that so many in the Christian world make him out to be. The real Christ who sits down with the really broken, those who think they're beyond repair, the forgotten ones, the ones who feel like they don't belong in the clean Christian club. Jesus came for sinners.

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