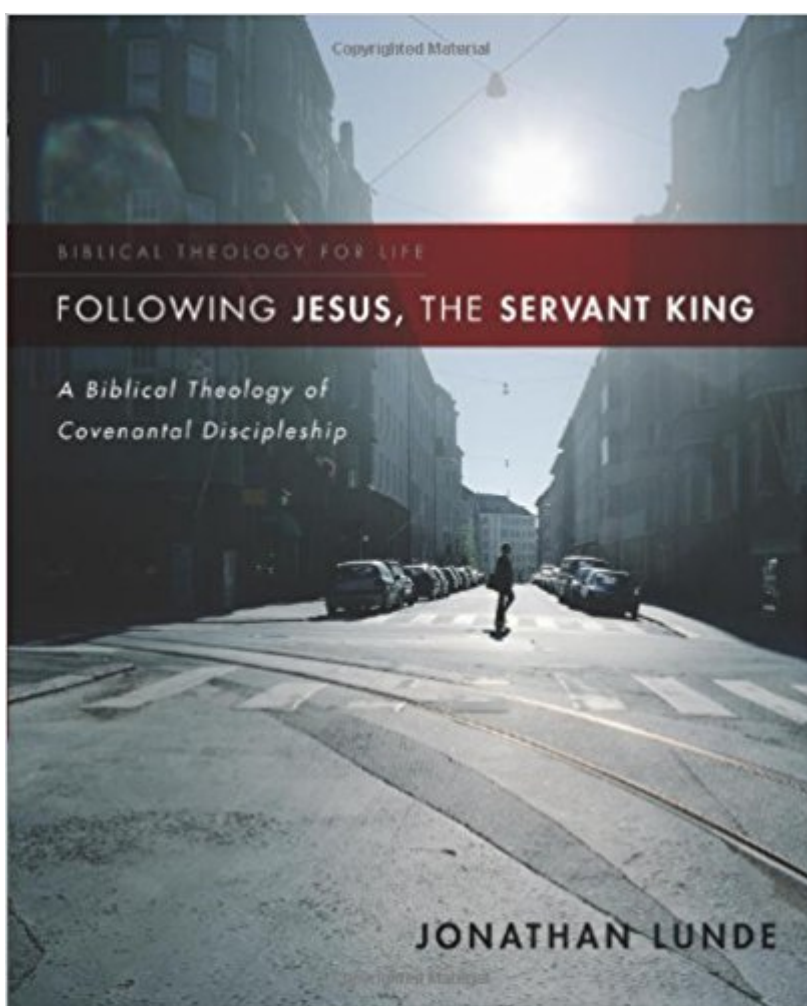


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# Following Jesus, The Servant King: A Biblical Theology Of Covenantal Discipleship (Biblical Theology For Life)



## Synopsis

Throughout the Old Testament and into the New, God not only demands righteousness from his people but also showers on grace that enables them to act. Jesus, of course, provides the ultimate fulfillment of these twin aspects of God's relationship to humanity. In biblical terms, Jesus is the King who demands righteous obedience from his followers, and Jesus is the Servant who provides the grace that enables this obedience. So what does it mean to follow Jesus? What does God expect from his followers, and how can they be and do what is required? Jonathan Lunde answers these and other questions in his sweeping biblical study on discipleship. He surveys God's interaction with his people from Eden to Jesus, paying special attention to the biblical covenants that illuminate the character and plans of God. He offers Bible students and teachers—such as pastors, missionaries, and lay leaders—the gift of practical biblical teaching rooted in the Bible's witness on the vital topic of discipleship.

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## Customer Reviews

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from his followers, and how can they be and do what is required? Jonathan Lunde answers these and other questions in his sweeping biblical study on discipleship. He surveys God's interaction with his people from Eden to Jesus, paying special attention to the biblical covenants that illuminate the character and plans of God. He offers Bible students and teachers---such as pastors, missionaries, and lay leaders---the gift of practical biblical teaching rooted in the Bible's witness on the vital topic of discipleship.

Jonathan Lunde (PhD, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) is associate professor of biblical and theological studies at Talbot School of Theology of Biola University. He is coeditor (with Kenneth Berding) of *Three Views on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament* and has contributed articles to *The Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* and the *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Jon and his wife, Pamela, have three children and reside in Brea, California.

Sincerely submissive obedience to the Bible's authority is a fundamental requirement for understanding the truths it reveals (Js 1.22, Jn 14.21 for starters). But because the Bible's commands are an integral part of its content, and because God's decrees are inseparable from His character, understanding is also foundational to application. Nowhere does this dilemma pose more or thornier theological and hermeneutical challenges than in studies of Law and Grace. Lunde's book is, hands down, the best thing I have read on the subject. His patient exegesis of the OT covenants, grounded in thorough scholarship and a high view of revelation which sees Christ as a fulfiller rather than an editor of the law, recenters Christian faith and practice on its ancient foundations. This book was Emmaus Road teaching for me. Much of the journey is dusty and slow, but keep reading prayerfully, and your heart will burn within you toward the end.

I've had the privilege of being in one of Dr. Lunde's Bible classes, and you can hear him speaking in this textbook. Haha!! It definitely feels like a textbook because of the dimensions of the book. There is so much great content in here about how we relate to Jesus, how we interact with grace, how we interact with doing Christian duties without falling into legalism... I loved the class (Jesus' Life & Ministry"), and I would recommend this book to understand Jesus and yourself more.

Amazing read! This book changed my entire perspective on Christianity! I loved reading this and learning! A must-read for anyone that believes in Jesus!

good

Great book, really helps to bring the Bible together in a way that i think is lacking in common understanding of our relationship with God. Extremely well written and in-depth. This study of Covenantal Discipleship and how it informs our relationship with God is a topic that needs to be taught, and understood more. Saying that his book is applicable to any ministry and to any persons christian life is an understatement. A must read for anyone looking for a deeper understanding of the entire sweep of covenant history, in a way that is applicable to discipleship, and understanding what it means to live righteously in relationship to the grace already have.

Great book.

Jonathan Lunde has offered an articulate and creative exposition of covenantal theology. In particular, his explanation of the relationship between various covenants and the New Covenant is very helpful, and I can see myself using his analogies of filter, lens and prism in my own teaching. However, the central thesis of this book, that discipleship should be identified with the 'righteous demands' of the New Covenant, requires closer examination. Whilst Lunde spends the bulk of his book working out the implications of this assertion, he devotes little or no time to defending it in the first place. On what basis should we choose covenant as the category in which to define discipleship? Why privilege it over, say, kingdom obedience (though the two are not unrelated), love (John 13:35), or the obedience of a student to his teacher (Luke 6:40)? On this last, Lunde somewhat disarmingly asserts that 'This book is not a detailed examination of the historical background of the term "disciple" (math't's) or of the nature of the relationship between Jewish rabbis and their students in first-century Palestine,' admitting that 'this approach to discipleship is somewhat unexpected' (32). However, this omission represents a weakness in Lunde's overall position, since by it he effectively broadens the scope of biblical discipleship to be coextensive with anything one does as a Christian. Similarly, he effectively defines the 'righteous demands' of a covenant as anything done by the lesser party of the covenant that is not part of the 'condition' of a conditional covenant. In this way he is able to equate the two disparate concepts. One wonders why, if covenant is so important in understanding discipleship the New Testament writers rarely (if ever) refer to it? Another methodological weakness in Lunde's argument is that it is largely founded on characteristics of individual covenants assumed also to be characteristic of the New Covenant. In the early chapters, he establishes certain characteristics that are common to all covenants - prior

grace, sustaining grace, righteous demands. Yet in latter chapters he argues from, say, the law of the Mosaic covenant to the 'law' of the New Covenant without offering justification of this reasoning. This is not to say that such a position is unjustifiable, just that Lunde hasn't justified it. Perhaps his assumption is that the New Covenant is the sum of prior covenants, incorporating them in their entirety albeit mediated by Christ in the same ways as articulated for the Mosaic law? In summary, then, Lunde has offered us an excellent book on 'covenantal obedience'. It is left to the reader to decide whether this may then be equated with New Covenant 'discipleship'.

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