

Christian Discipleship
“What is a disciple?”
Volume 1

1. What does the word disciple mean?

- “Somebody who strongly believes in the teachings of a leader, a philosophy, or a religion and tries to act according to them” (Webster’s Dictionary).
- There usually seems to be a commonality of philosophy and practice in those trained in a discipline even in a non-Christian discussion of discipleship, i.e., followers of movements, teachers, political leaders, coaches, etc.

2. What is a *Christian* disciple?

- It is someone who *submits* themselves to the teachings and lifestyle of Christ and *remains* committed to them.
- The word *submit* means in the Greek, “to come under,” while the word *remain*, as in, “...remain in me...” in the vine (John 16) means “to abide under.” They are both staples, never independent of each other in Christian discipleship.
- Paul said, “I no longer live, but it is Christ in me who lives.” (Galatians 2:20)
- Christian disciples are followers of Jesus in thought, word, and deed. They look and sound like Jesus. (1 John 2:3-6)

3. What does Jesus say about being a disciple of His?

- He must first deny himself, take up his cross, and follow him. (Luke 9:23)
- A person *must* be born-again. Without this, there can be no discussion of discipleship. It is the difference between people who *know about* God and people who actually *know* God. (John 3:3)
- Every disciple of Jesus must count the cost of leaving everything in order to follow Him *wherever* He leads. (Luke 9:57-62)
- Jesus said, “Apart from me you can do nothing.” He is the origination point of all Christian discipleship. (John 15:5)

4. What things should be important to Christian disciples according to the Bible?

- Jesus said in the Great Commission, Matthew 28:17-20 that repentance (represented in baptism) and His teachings are primary.
- Nothing, absolutely nothing, can replace alone, intimate time with God. This is prayer and Bible reading. (Jude 20; Psalm 119:11)
- The corporate worship of God in a community of faith is evident in the church of Acts and is ‘fleshed’ out by our Savior as He was regular in his attendance of daily synagogue. (Luke 4:16; Acts 2:42)
- Corporate Bible study where there can be growth for the disciple through community is vital. Accountability and sound doctrine are provided naturally in this setting. (1 Timothy 4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- There are four things that the early followers of Jesus *devoted* themselves to: The Apostles teachings, prayer, breaking of bread, and fellowship. Hebrews 10:25 says, “Let us not forsake gathering together” while 1 John 1:5 says, “If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus purifies us from all sin.” To sum it up, God’s Kingdom will be the most important thing to us, NATURALLY, when we fall in love with God.

5. Some important questions to ask to see if I am really a disciple of Jesus:

- Have I ever been born-again?
- Have I submitted myself to everything God has revealed to me?
- Do I live what the Bible teaches?
- Have I remained under those things God has revealed to me through prayer and Bible study?
- 1 John 4:17 says, “...this is how we can have confidence on the Day of Judgment, that in this world we are like Jesus.” Do you look like Jesus or do you look more like the world?

Repentance, submitting our lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and abiding in His teachings is the summation of Christian discipleship.