

# Disciples of Christ

## Introduction

1. **A disciple is defined as “a student, learner, or pupil.”**
  - A. **One can be a disciple of anyone, however, in the Bible the word is used most often to refer to a follower of Jesus.**
  - B. **The word is rarely used in the Old Testament. Isaiah used the term disciples to refer to those who are taught or instructed**

Isaiah 8:16 Bind up the testimony, Seal the law among my disciples.

2. **There is a big difference between being a “disciple” and merely being what the world would call a “church member.”**
3. **Jesus desires all to be “disciples” and not merely “admirers”.**
4. **Unlike being an admirer of Christ, discipleship requires true commitment.**
  - A. **Jesus commanded:**

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make **disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;....

5. **In the lesson this evening, lets take some time to look at what a true disciple of Christ does.**

## **A Disciple of Christ will Follow Christ**

- 1. The invitation of Jesus is to follow Him and to go with Him wherever He goes.**

Matthew 4:19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

- A. There must be “no strings attached” to our full and dedicated commitment to follow Jesus.**

- 2. There is “no serving” Christ without following Him.**

John 12:26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

- 3. In order to be a true disciple of Christ, we must make the choice to faithfully serve Him. In order to do that we must “deny” self.**  
**Matthew 16:24-27**

Luke 9:62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

## **A Disciple of Christ Will Study**

### **1. In Jesus' own invitation He says to us:**

Matthew 11:28-30 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and **learn from Me**, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

#### **A. A disciple is a learner. Learning as a student is at the heart of what discipleship means**

### **2. What we are called by Jesus to learn is not just a body of information, but in actuality --- Christ Himself!**

#### **Philippians 2:1-5**

Philippians 3:8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

Jeremiah 9:23-24 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.

## **A Disciple of Christ Will Obey**

- 1. The disciples that were made by the preaching of the apostles were to be taught** *“to observe all things that I have commanded you”* (Matt 28:20).
- 2. Obedience should not be looked upon as a negative concept. For one to obey the Christ, the Son of God, should be viewed as a great privilege!**

Psalms 40:8 I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."

- 3. It is only through our full and complete obedience to Him, that we can be saved in order to be with Him throughout eternity.**

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

Hebrews 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation **to all who obey Him,**

## **A Disciple of Christ Will Imitate Him**

- 1. In the ancient times of long ago, a disciple imitated his master even to the point of adopting his manner of life.**
- 2. Likewise, we are to imitate Christ, patterning ourselves after Him.**

**1 Peter 2:21-25**

1 John 2:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

- A. It is the example of Jesus that we must pattern our life after.**

John 13:15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

- B. To be like Christ should be our highest aim in life.**

Matthew 10:24-25 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household!

- 3. Our own lives must be lived in such a way as to be a worthy imitation of Jesus, our Lord and Savior!**

1 Corinthians 11:1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

## Conclusion

**1. To follow Christ as a disciple involves sacrifice, the bearing of our own “cross.”**

**Luke 9:23-26**

**2. Brethren and friends, have we really counted the cost of real discipleship?**

**Luke 14:27-33**

**3. But not only that, have we really counted the cost of non-discipleship?**

Matthew 16:26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

**4. If you’re a Christian, then you must be His disciple. Once we have accepted Him, we now must listen to Him and obey Him in order to be saved.**

Luke 6:46 But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?

## Invitation

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Richard Thetford, August 2006 (Adapted from a sermon by Gary Henry)