Discipleship

Becoming a committed follower of Jesus Christ

Understanding Discipleship

> [1]*"[Discipleship] is learning what it means to follow Jesus fully."*

What is a _____?

A disciple is someone who is becoming more like

_____ _____

> *Romans 8:28-29*
> *28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*
>
> *2 Peter 3:18*
> *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

We can't become more like Jesus if we don't know who He is. A disciple must be committed to learning the attributes and character of Jesus Christ if they wish to emulate Him. Read the Gospel of John and 1 John to learn more about who Jesus is and how He reveals Himself to us.

A disciple is someone who is being _____

> *Romans 12:1-2*
> *1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Transformation is a constant part of the Christian life. This isn't a magical or overnight process—it's a daily surrendering of my

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1 Chappell, Paul. "The Word Of God." In Continue: A Biblical Journey in Personal Discipleship, 2. Lancaster, CA: Striving Together Publications, 2015.

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will to God and a commitment to being filled with the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:16, 25; Ephesians 5:18)

What are the _____ for being a disciple?

A disciple must be _____

> *Matthew 7:21-23*
> *21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

We cannot fulfill being a disciple until we've chosen to follow Jesus. Discipleship is impossible without the help of the Holy Spirit, who we receive when we get saved.

A disciple must be _____ to following Jesus

> *Luke 14:33*
> *So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*

God has no tolerance for complacent or passive Christianity. With knowledge and understanding come responsibility and consequences. (Revelation 3:15-16)

A disciple must be _____ to learn about Jesus

> *John 8:31*
> *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

It has been wisely said that the Christian life is never at a stand-still. We are always either growing into a fuller version of our faith or regressing into our fleshly ways.

_____ should be a disciple?

_____ should be a disciple

> *Matthew 28:19-20*
> *19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them*

> *in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

Discipleship is not reserved for the few or the elite—it's for everyone! Every Christian is called to live a life of dedication and commitment to Jesus Christ. Don't be fooled into thinking that you cannot live the same fulfilled life for God as someone else.

How does discipleship _____?

Discipleship was never meant to happen _____

All throughout scripture you see examples of mentoring (discipling) relationships. Moses and Aaron. Eli and Samuel. Elijah and Elisha. Paul and Timothy. And of course, Jesus and His disciples. The church itself is structured to promote this concept of discipleship or growth together.

Discipleship is not following a _____, but following _____

> *1 Corinthians 11:1*
> *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*

Being a disciple of Jesus Christ does not mean that we never listen to another man—it reminds us that man is not our final authority! Everything we ever learn from a man we are responsible to check for ourselves against the Bible (Acts 17:11). As we grow in our relationship with God and knowledge of the Bible, we will also grow to have greater spiritual discernment.

Discipleship has a "_____ _____ _____" mentality

> *2 Timothy 2:2*
> *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

Our role as a disciple is to learn from those ahead of us and to pass that knowledge on to those behind us. We must understand, however, that this role also comes with responsibility. Beware not to pass on error or even heresy!

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We must teach others with the knowledge and power of the Holy Spirit.

Assignments

- Make a list of the ways that Jesus Christ has already begun to transform you. Notice who you used to be and who you are now. Take some time each day to thank God for how He is changing you.
- Determine now to commit to being a lifelong disciple of Jesus Christ. Make your commitment a part of your prayers and ask other Christians to keep you accountable to it. Being a disciple is not an easy task, but it is a rewarding and fulfilling one.
- Begin reading the Gospel of John. As you go through the passages, start a list highlighting who Jesus says He is throughout the book. These characteristics are ones you want to start emulating in your own life.

Memorize:

2 Peter 3:18
But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Meditate:

What does it mean to "grow in grace"? How does this concept correspond with knowing who Jesus is?