

Demands Of Discipleship

Luke 14:26ff



What is a “disciple”?

Our ability to influence in large measure depends on our level of discipleship.

- Commitment
- Faithfulness
- Diligence
- Zeal

What is a “disciple”?

- From the Greek word *mathetes*, “a learner” – an “adherent,” “follower,” and “imitator” of their teacher.
- One who is being **taught and trained**. (Matthew 28:19; Luke 6:40)
- “**Thought accompanied by endeavor**” – Not a passive role!
- The **invitation** has been extended! (Matthew 11:29)

What is a TRUE “disciple”?

- “***If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples (disciples indeed, KJV) of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.***” (John 8:31-32)
- There are disciples and there are those who are “***truly disciples***” of Jesus.

A TRUE “disciple” Of Who?

Discipleship is to Christ and NEVER to another person! (1 Corinthians 1:10-13; note verses 4-9)

Unscriptural terms: “**witnesses**” and “**disciplers**.”

What we do for each other is **teach, exhort, encourage, and strengthen** but we don’t disciple each other.

The role of zeal and enthusiasm. In whom and what? (Romans 10:1-2; 12:11)

Disciples become Christians. Christians are disciples!

Consider these demands of “true” discipleship ...

- Note: **it’s Jesus who determines who can be and who “cannot be” My “disciple” and what it entails.** (Luke 14:26ff)

Exercising our will

- Matthew 16:24-27, **“if anyone wishes (would, will, desires) to come after Me ...”**
- The word also conveys the idea of **pressing into action** or **translating desire into execution**.
- We have to choose to **“deny,” “sacrifice,”** and **“follow”** (cf. Matthew 16:24).
- Are we **“willing to do His will”**? (John 7:17; Psalms 51:12)

Exercising our will

What is willpower?

- Power over your will
- Not trying, attempting, or pursuing until it becomes difficult. (Matthew 13:21)
- A decision that **opens one door** and **closes every other**.
- A firm state of resolve that closes the door marked **“what am I going to do?”** and opens a new door marked, **“how am I going to do it?”**

Exercising our will

What is willpower? It's choosing to replace ...

- **Fear** – with **courage**
- **Ignorance** – with **knowledge**
- **Doubt** – with **confidence**
- **Incompetence** – with **abilities**
- **Lack of resources** – with **faithful stewardship**
- **Pessimism** – with **faith**
- **Excuses** – with **accountability**

Continuing In His Word

“... if you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.” (John 8:31)

Not only **listen** to **God's word**, but **follow/apply**.

We are not disciples if we never **consistently and diligently study** the **Bible**. (2 Timothy 2:15)

We must be careful ... (2 John 9-11; 1 Corinthians 4:6; 1 Peter 4:11; Colossians 3:17)

Unashamed and Courageous

“... Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jews.” (John 19:38)

Paul said, **“I am not ashamed ...”** (Romans 1:16)

We can't be ashamed of our discipleship ...

(Mark 8:38; John 18:17, 25; 2 Timothy 1:8; 2:15)

Can't be characterized by timidity. (2 Timothy 1:7)

Loving Jesus Christ More ...

Than others including family (Matthew 10:37; Luke 14:26) ... **“... he cannot be My disciple.”**

Do you want to go to heaven more than anything or anyone else?

The “greatest” command, “love the Lord your God with all your heart ... soul ... mind”

(Matthew 22:36; John 14:15; 1 John 5:3)

How will you answer Jesus? (John 21:15ff)

Loving Jesus Christ More ...

Than Self (Luke 14:26) “... *he cannot be My disciple.*”

Self denial (Matthew 16:24-25; Titus 2:11-14)

The “***crown of life***” for those who are, “***faithful unto death***” (Revelation 2:10; cf. 12:11)

Examples: John the Baptist (Mark 6:17ff); **Stephen** (Acts 7:59-60); **James** (Acts 12:1-2); **Paul** (Acts 21:13; 2 Timothy 4:6-8)

Willing To Sacrifice and Deny

Luke 9:23, “*If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*” (cf. Luke 14:27)

#1 problem is selfishness ...

We are not “***our own***” (**1 Corinthians 6:19**)

Our view of life must be as Paul’s when he said, “*It’s no longer I who live but Christ lives in me ...*” (Galatians 2:20; cf. Philippians 1:21)

Forsaking All

Jesus stated, “... *no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.*”

(Luke 14:33)

Considering all our earthly gains to be loss.

(Philippians 3:7-9)

It’s giving up who we are. “... *they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God*” (2 Corinthians 8:5)

Loving Others

John 13:34-35, “... *love one another ... by this all men will know that you are My disciples*”

- A badge of discipleship.
- A love that is described in 1 Corinthians 13.
- An active love. (1 John 3:17-18)
- Patient, helpful, and understanding towards others. (1 Thessalonians 5:14)
- Tolerant of sin? No!

Ready to extend forgiveness.

(cf. Psalms 86:5; Luke 23:34; Ephesians 4:32)

Emulating Our Master and Teacher

Matthew 10:24-25, “... *It is enough for the disciple that he become as his teacher and the slave as his master.*”

- We’re to **follow Him**. (Luke 14:27)
- On the **same terms**? (Hebrews 4:14-16)
- **Our purpose** – to be conformed to the image of His Son. (Romans 8:28-29)
- **Our work** – that Christ be formed in each one of us. (Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 4:12-13)

Continuing Steadfastly

Acts 11:23, 26, “... *he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord ... and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.*” (cf. Acts 2:42)

Are we committed to “***strengthening the souls of the disciples***”? (Acts 14:22; cf. 18:23)

Some will not continue ... we don’t change the standard (John 6:60-66; 1 John 2:19)

Bearing Fruit

John 15:8, "... **that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.**"

Notice the progression of fruit-bearing in this context.

"**Fruit**" (verse 2), and "**much fruit**" (verses 5, 8).

We are to bear the fruit of prayer, obedience, joy, and love. (John 15:7, 10-12)

It means we **get to work** for our Master's cause and

make ourselves useful. (1 Corinthians 15:58;

Ephesians 4:16; 2 Timothy 2:21; Matthew 25:14ff)

Doors of opportunity. (Colossians 4:2-6)

Bearing Fruit

- **Including ... winning others to Christ and saving souls.** (Proverbs 11:30; cf. Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 9:19-22)

- **Seeking to help teach other disciples:** "*Go therefore and make disciples ... baptizing them ... **teaching them** to observe all I commanded you ...*" (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2)

- **We're to sow the seed** and leave the results to God. (1 Corinthians 3:6; Matthew 13:18-23)

How Does True Discipleship Influence?

- **What influences others is true commitment and dedication which is what disciples are to have.**
- **The influence of God is through His word and teaching.**
- **Courage and boldness rather than timidity.**
- **Loving the souls of others.**
- **Sacrifice and denial.**
- **Being Christ-like.**
- **Bearing fruit.**