

True Discipleship

(Zeke Flores - From Outline By David Riggs)

Intro. Term “disciple” used more frequently than “Christian”

- A. Jesus came to make disciples - **John 6:44-45**
- B. There are many traits that accompany being a disciple
 - 1) Many of them taught by Jesus as recorded in the gospels
 - 2) A true disciple will make being a disciple his main objective.
 - 3) But what IS a true disciple?

I. A true disciple is a learner

- A. From Gr: “*mathetes*” A learner, pupil, & the word indicates “thought accompanied by endeavor” (Vines)
 - 1) Hence, there is a thought process, learning going on.
 - 2) It’s a process that involves both intellect and effort.
 - 3) Not just understanding a thing, but also practicing it.
- B. Jesus taught His disciples in many ways:
 - 1) Sermons (discourses) - **Matt 5:1-2**
 - 2) Parables - **Luke 8:4, 9, 11:1**
- C. His disciples quickly learned many new things
 - 1) **Matt 13:51-52**
- D. If we’re to be disciples of Christ, we must learn
 - 1) **2 Tim 2:15 “Be diligent...”**

II. A true disciple learns to be like his teacher

“A disciple is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.” Luke 6:40

- A. A disciple is not only learner, but also imitator of his teacher.
- B. Jesus taught to follow His example - **John 13:15-16**
 - 1) Even His example of suffering - **John 15:18-20**
- C. Maybe why disciples were called “Christians” - **Acts 11:26**
 - 1) Means “belonging to Christ”. Who belongs to Christ more than those who suffer for Him?
 - a. **1 Ptr 2: 18-24, 4:12-19**
 - 2) Through suffering, we are identified with our Master.

III. A true disciple abides in his teacher’s teaching- John 8:31-32

- A. Paul wanted folks to know it was not his own teaching
 - 1) **Gal 1:11-12, 1 Thess 2:13**
- B. Therefore he warned not to stray from it no matter how good something may sound.
 - 1) **Eph 4:14, Col 2:18-19**
- C. Too many led astray by logical-sounding ideas.
 - 1) Someone told professor, “*I understand that Bob was one of your students.*” Professor said, “*He may have attended my lectures but he was never one of my students. He never applied what I taught him!*”

- 2) Same for us: When we leave Christ's teaching, we leave Christ. - **2 John: 9**
- 3) Far too many are content to be "distant followers" & not true disciples.

IV. A true disciple puts nothing before His teacher - Luke 14:26

- A. He counts the cost and realizes his commitment.
 - 1) **Luke 14:28-33**
 - 2) Not that we literally give everything away, but we must realize that Christ has no rivals.
 - We give Him loyalty first
 - a. **Matt 10:32-37**
 - 3) Since literal hatred has no place in Jesus' teaching, we understand that he means we love Him more.
 - a. We may have father & enjoy his love & protection;
 - may have mother & enjoy love & affection;
 - may have bros & sisters, wife, husband, or children, successful life, but NONE can rival the Lord.
- B. **"We are called to an everlasting preoccupation with the Lord."**
 - 1) Anything less is treason - **1 Ptr 3:15**

V. A true disciple bears his cross - Luke 9:23, 14:27

- A. He recognizes that there can be no less than total submission to Jesus' authority.
 - 1) **John 12:48**
- B. He knows that they are words of eternal life and yields to them in every way. - **Gal 2:20**
 A converted native was to be baptized. The missionary took a long spear with him into the swift current to steady himself. Inadvertently he stabbed the foot of the convert beneath the water. The man neither spoke nor moved. After the ceremony when the accident was discovered, the convert was asked why he had kept silent. "I thought it was part of the ceremony," he replied. In a way he was right. Baptism is the beginning of our expression of willingness to suffer for the Lord Jesus Christ in whose Name the believer is baptized.
- C. Passions, desires, lusts are all channeled into pleasing Him!
 - 1) **"We have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him." 2 Cor 5:9**
 - 2) Discipline is deeply rooted in life of true disciple. A disciple is a disciplined, self-controlled individual.
 - a. **Rom 13:11-14**
 - 3) Can't be done w/o full & total surrender to Christ, even with all its accompanying difficulties.
 - a. A group was touring a large expensive church building. As it darkened, a great spotlight shone on the cross outside. *"That cross alone cost \$10,000,!"* said the minister with obvious pride. Someone said, *"You got gypped! Christians get crosses for free!"*

VI. A true disciple keeps moving forward - Luke 9:57-62

- A. We must realize that the reward lays before us
 - 1) **Phil 3:12-14, 2 Cor 4:16-18, Rom 8:18**
- B. We must realize that tho so many things work against us, we cannot allow ourselves to get tired of doing right. Believe that there is a reward!

1) **Gal 6:9** “*Let us not lose heart in doing good...*”

VII. A true disciple bears fruit - John 15:1-11

A. There will be fruitfulness in prayer - **John 15:7**

1) We cannot pressure or manipulate God. He knows what's best for His children & loves those who prove themselves to be so.

B. There will be fruitfulness shown in practical life. - **Vss 2, 5, 8**

1) We exercise our knowledge of what we've learned by putting it into application. - **Rom 12:1-2**

C. Too much “cheap grace” abounds. It demands nothing & gets nothing. Real grace is costly and shows itself in real life.

VIII. A true disciple loves other disciples - John 13:34-35

A. What a hallmark by which we are to be recognized!

B. It means we deal with one another graciously

1) **Col 3:8-14**

2) There are areas in our lives where, in our efforts to be right, we may go wrong, so wrong as to lead to spiritual deformity. To be specific, let me name a few:

1. When in our determination to be bold, we become brazen.
2. When in our desire to be frank, we become rude.
3. When in our effort to be watchful, we become suspicious.
4. When we seek to be serious and become somber.
5. When we mean to be conscientious and become overscrupulous.

In all this, love is pushed out.

C. We love even when we do something really dumb!

1) **1 Cor 5, 2 Cor 2:6-8, Luke 22:31-32**

2) Real love seeks the best always for the recipient - **1 Cor 13**

IX. True disciples make other disciples - Matt 28:18-20

A. We learn from others who learn from others & so on, but all is learning from the Master!

1) Then, we take what we know & teach others - **2 Tim 2:1-2**

B. It's imperative that we all realize we are ALL ministers!

1) **2 Tim 2:24-26**

2) A man was praying one evening for a certain unconverted neighbor. "O Lord, touch him with Thy finger, Lord!" The petition was repeated with great earnestness, when something said to him: "Thou art the finger of God! Have you ever touched your neighbor? Have you ever spoken a single word to him on the question of salvation? Go now and touch that man, and your prayer shall be answered."

Hundreds of opportunities had come and gone, but the supreme question of life had been set aside for such topics as "the weather," "the latest news," "politics," etc. His first duty as a Christian had been left undone.

2) This is the thrust of **Gal 6:10**

Conc All disciples are identified with their masters

A. Can YOU be identified as a disciple of Christ?