

Get a G.R.I.P.

Week 3

What is a disciple? According to Webster it is a person who subscribes to the teachings of a master and assists in spreading those teachings.

How Does a Believer Become a Disciple?

1. We must first confess our sins, repent of our sins, and receive Jesus into our hearts. In other words we must, “be born again” (John 3:3, 5).
2. We must come to the point of “blessed dissatisfaction.” Jesus said, “Blessed [or happy] are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness...” (Matt. 5:6).

What Is Discipleship? Discipleship is a radical decision to do the will of God. This decision leads a person to deny himself and to take up his cross daily to joyfully follow Jesus. And since this is not a matter of growth, but of a decision, you can become a disciple the same day you are born again.

Discipleship Is Abiding in Christ. Jesus said, “I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit... If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned” (John 15:5,6). The Self-life cannot and will not abide in Jesus! There is no life outside discipleship, but only certain death and impending, everlasting disaster.

Discipleship is Enthusiasm for Jesus. You cannot find a dried up disciple any more than you can find a dried up grape on a healthy vine, relatively speaking. Our witnessing stops when we lose our enthusiasm for Jesus, when our intimacy with him ceases.

Discipleship Means That We Abandon Our Schedules. At the wedding of Cana, Mary wanted Jesus to solve the problem of the wine shortage at once. But Jesus said, “...mine hour is not yet come” (John 2:4; see also 7:6). Taking the cross up daily means our giving Jesus our time — all of our time. Time is life. If you give Jesus your time, you give him your life. Life is time and time is life. To take up one’s cross daily means to give Jesus 24 hours each day, and each hour consists of 60 minutes, and each minute consists of 60 seconds. Dying daily means giving Jesus every second of every day!

Disciples never say to Jesus, “I have other plans...; I have prior commitments...; I don’t want to disappoint my father, my wife, or my friends, etc....” Jesus took care of all that when he said, “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26). A disciple will never do anything but that which is on God’s schedule, and getting on God’s schedule means giving up ours. If watching television is not on God’s schedule, a disciple will not watch TV. If going to a ball game is not on God’s schedule, a disciple will not go to a ball game. If shopping is not on God’s plan, a disciple will not go shopping. If attendance at a wedding of a brother is not on God’s schedule, a disciple will not go.

D – DAILY DECISION TO DENY SELF.

Jesus said: Luke 9:23 “To them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. Matthew got up denied his ideas or plans for the day and followed Jesus when he called him. He made a decision. You can become a disciple the same day you become born-again. It is a DECISION. One cannot drift into becoming a disciple, because spiritual growth is not on automatic but it is a daily moment by moment denial of self to follow. A disciple does not figure it all out but follows.

I - IMMEDIATELY OBEYS JESUS COMMANDS.

Jesus said Luke 14:26 “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. This was radical challenge as family was important but Jesus strongly uses the word hate to emphasize that family or anything cannot stand in the way following and obeying Jesus.

S - SUBMITS AS A SLAVE TO JESUS 24/7.

John 12:26 “If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.” Jesus took on a form of a servant in Phil 2:7 and the word servant here in the Greek is duolos or slave. There is a big difference between a servant and slave. A servant has rights and slave does not. A servant can punch the clock 9-5 but a slave is on duty 24/7. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:19 “I made myself a servant.

C - CARRIES HIS CROSS - CHILDLIKE IN SPIRIT.

Luke 14:27 Jesus said: And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. Jesus also said in Matthew 18:3 “Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted; and become as a little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

I - INWARD TRANSFORMATION.

RO 12:2 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. EPH 4:24: And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. We have the OUTER WORK, and the Holy Spirit has the INNER WORK to do in our hearts and mind.

P - POOR IN SPIRIT.

Matthew 5:3 Jesus said: “Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of God.” Poor in spirit is one who relies on, trusts in and adheres to Jesus Christ. A little child is totally dependent upon his parents for his care. A little child allows the parents to make the decisions of what he wears, where he goes, etc.

L - LOVES AND LIVES IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD -- FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT EVIDENT.

John 13:34-35 Jesus said: “A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 15:8 Jesus said: “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.” Gal 5:22-23 The fruit of the spirit: Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

E - EVANGELIZES -- SHARES THE GOOD NEWS.

Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus said: “Go ye therefore, and teach disciples all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you:”