
What Is a Disciple?: 3 Goals of Following Jesus

What Is Discipleship? (more on this later)

- **Matthew 11:29** 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.
- **Matthew 10:24-25** ²⁴ A disciple is not above *his* teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ 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 Beelzebul, how much more *will they call* those of his household! (cp 1 John 2:6)
- **1 Timothy 4:6-7** ⁶ If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. ⁷ But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.

1. A Disciple is a Truth-Knower

☼ God wants me to learn and live His Word.

John 8:30-36 ³⁰ As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. ³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." ³³ They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* you say, 'You will be made free'?" ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

- **Observations (30-31):**
 - Belief is not equal to discipleship. (Eph 2:8-9)
 - Condition: "IF you abide in My Word..."
 - Effect: *lit.* "truly disciples of Me you are"
- **Definition (31b):**
 - Discipleship = Abiding in the Word.
- **Results (32):**
 - Result #1: Knowledge of the Truth!
 - Result #2: Freedom from Sin through the Truth!
- **Focus:** My relationship to God's Word.

2. A Disciple Is a Brother-Lover

☼ God wants me to commit to and care for believers.

John 13:34-35 ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- **Observations:**
 - Command: Love One Another [Is this new? Lev 19:18]
 - Comparison: The measure of our love is... (v.34)
 - Condition: "IF you have love for one another."
 - Effect: "All will know that you are My disciples."
- **Definition (35):**
 - Discipleship = Loving Our Brethren
- **Results:**
 - Result #1: Internal → Unconditional Care
 - Result #2: External → Supernatural Evidence
- **Focus:** My Relationship to God' People

3. A Disciple Is a Fruit-Bearer

☼ God wants me to pursue and to produce godly conduct.

John 15:5-16 ⁵ I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. ⁹ "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full. ¹² This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

- **Observations:**
 - We are to bear much fruit ("fruit" 8x in vv. 1-17!)
- **Result:** God Is Glorified (huh?)
- **Definition (8):**
 - Discipleship = Bearing Much Fruit
- **Focus:** My relationship to God's Plan.

What Is a Disciple? (3 Goals)

- God wants me to be a Truth-Knower:
 - One who lives in and by God's Word, letting the Word change my thinking, and give me victory over sin. Am I?
- God wants me to be a Brother-Lover:
 - One who cares, sacrifices, and dies, if need be, for the benefit of my brethren. Am I?
- God wants me to be a Fruit-Bearer:
 - One who seeks, by attitude and action, to purpose and produce God-directed responses, activities, and works. Am I?