

What is a Disciple of Jesus Christ?

Mt 28:18

Disciple means---follower or learner.

It is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks, and a hand through which Christ helps.

Jesus describes a Disciple---

I. A Disciple is a Cross-Bearer Lk 14:27 “Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple.” A disciple is one who takes up the purpose of Jesus (cross) and is walking in agreement with him daily. To carry the cross means we have submitted our life to him. His life’s work becomes ours.

II. A Disciple is a Manager not an Owner. Lk 14:33 “So likewise, whosoever does not forsake all he has, cannot be my disciple.” A disciple has decided to make all his possessions secondary to Christ, acknowledging that the Lord owns it all. We manage our time, resources, influence and money based on good stewardship for the kingdom and find our security in Christ Jesus.

III. A Disciple is a Learner. Jn 8:31 “If you continue in my word, then you are my disciples.” A disciple is one who has chosen to make his home in mind and spirit in the Word of God. It becomes his food for the soul, as he recognizes that Jesus is the source of all truth, and the place for spiritual growth is the Word. As a student, he is always searching for knowledge.

IV. A Disciple is Lover. Jn 13:35 “By this shall men know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” Love becomes the identification mark of the disciple of Jesus. He said we are to love and He has loved us. Jesus’ love was unconditional, universal, forgiving, nurturing. He summed up all commands with the words...Love God and Love your neighbor as yourself.

V. A Disciple is a Fruit-Bearer Jn 15:8 “Herein is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, showing yourself to be my disciples.” A disciple becomes like a fruit---reproducing by seed-making other disciples throughout the world...and by being a blessing to others. Discipleship involves evangelism and benevolent work. We must work to produce a harvest for the Lord, through our unselfish life of service.

A Disciple strives for a Learner’s mind, a Servant’s heart, a Laborer’s body, and a Humble spirit.