**What is Christian discipleship?**

By definition, a disciple is a follower, one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another.

A Christian disciple is a person who accepts and assists in the spreading of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Christian discipleship is the process by which we, --- the disciple, grow in the ways of the Lord Jesus Christ and become equipped by the **power** of the **Holy Spirit**, who resides in **our heart**, to overcome the pressures and trials of this present life and become more and more **Christ like.**

This requires us to respond to the Holy Spirit’s **prompting** to examine our **thoughts**, **words** and **actions** and **compare them** with the **Word of God**.

This requires us, to as much as possible, to read **the Word** --- daily—studying it, praying over it, and obeying it. Or off course you could use that popular word of today. Meditate !

This is our spiritual food, our sustenance our life.

In addition, we should always be ready to give **testimony of the reason for the hope that is within us**

**1 Peter 3:15** New International Version (NIV)

**15**But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

**But!! do this** \*\***with gentleness and respect,** *(repeat this)*

and to disciple others to walk in **His** way, according to **Scripture.**

Being a Christian disciple involves personal growth characterized by the following:

1. **Putting Jesus \*\*first in \*\*all things** *(\*\*lets repeat that)*

**Mark 8:34-38** New International Version (NIV)

**34**Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever **wants** to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and **follow me.**

**\*\*35**For whoever wants to save their life[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+8%3A34-38&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24536a)] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

*\*\*(look back at this repeat - after reading it) look at denying one’s self to save ones self!*

**36**What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

**37**Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

**38**If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

The disciple of Christ needs to be set apart from the world.

Our focus should be on our Lord and pleasing Him in every area of our lives.

We must put off self-centeredness (me, me, my) and put on Christ-centeredness. (us, us, we)

# **John 8:31-32**New International Version (NIV)

### 31To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said,

### “If you hold to my Teaching, you are really my disciples.

 **32**Then you will know the truth, and (What) --- the truth will set you free.”

1. **Following Jesus' teachings**

We must be obedient children and doers of the Word.

Obedience is the supreme test of faith in God

**1 Samuel 28:18** New International Version (NIV)

**18**Because you did not obey the Lord or carry out his fierce wrath against the Amalekites, the Lord has done this to you today.

# and Jesus is the perfect example of obedience as He lived a life on earth of complete obedience to the Father even to the point of death

# **Philippians 2:6-8** New International Version (NIV)

**6**Who, being in very nature[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+2%3A6-8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29398a)] God,
    did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
**7**rather, he made himself nothing
    by taking the very nature[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+2%3A6-8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29399b)] of a servant,
    being made in human likeness.
**8**And being found in appearance as a man,
    he humbled himself
    by becoming obedient to death—
        even death on a cross!

1. **Fruitfulness**

# **John 15:5-8** New International Version (NIV)

**5**“I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; a

part from me you can do nothing.

**6**If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers;

such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

**7**If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

**8**This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

*\*\*Maybe explain how to prune a tree?*

Though - Our job is not producing fruit.

Our job is to abide in Christ, and if we do, the Holy Spirit will produce the fruit in us, and this fruit is the result of our obedience.

As we become more obedient to the Lord and learn to walk in His ways, our lives will **change**.

The biggest change will take place in our hearts, and the overflow of this will be new conduct (thoughts, words and actions) representative of that change.

The change we seek is done from the inside out, through **the power of the Holy Spirit.**

It isn’t something we can conjure up on our own.

**4. Love for other disciples**

**John 13:34-35** New International Version (NIV)

**34**“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. *(He repeats this, it must be important)*

**35**By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” *(AGAIN He repeats this. It must be VERY important)*

We are told that love of other believers is the evidence of our being a member of God's family

**1 John 3:10** New International Version (NIV)

**10**This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are:

Anyone who does not do what is right is not God’s child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

Love is defined and elaborated on in

**1 Corinthians 13** New International Version (NIV)

**13**If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

 **2**If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

**3**If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love**, I gain nothing**.

**4**Love **is patient**, **love is kind**. It **does not envy**, it **does not boast**, it is **not proud.**

**5**It does **not dishonor others**, it is **not self-seeking**, it is not easily **angered,** and it keeps **no record of wrongs**.

**6**Love does **not delight in evil** but **rejoices with the truth**.

**7**It always **protects**, **always trusts**, **always hopes**, and always **perseveres**.

**8Love never fails**.

*But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.*

**9**For we know in part and we prophesy in part,

**10**but when **completeness comes**, in what is part disappears.

**11**When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.

When I became a man, *(Lets say an Adult)* I put the ways of childhood behind me.

**12**For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

**13**And now these three remain: **faith, hope and love**. But the greatest of **these is love.**

These verses show us that love is **not an emotion**

So that’s not that pitter patter when we meet a person and we think we feel what most call LOVE. That’s just an emotion, nothing more…. Do NOT base a relationship on that feeling, it is short lived and as I said purely an emotion. It is NOT LOVE.

In love, We must be doing something and be involved in the process.

We are told to think more highly of **others** than of ourselves and to look out for **their interests**

**LOVE IS AN ACTION**

**Philippians 2:3-4** New International Version (NIV)

**3**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.

Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,

**4**not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

# The next verse in Philippians 2 (verse 5)

# **Philippians 2:5** New International Version (NIV)

**5**In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

OR in the Amplified Bible

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**5**Have this same attitude in yourselves which was in Christ Jesus [look to Him as your example in selfless humility],

This really sums up what we are to do when it comes to everything in life:

"our attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."

What a perfect example He is to us for everything we are to do in our Christian walk.

1. **Evangelism - Making disciples of others**

*And we have a few of these in our Church. That’s exciting woohoo*

# **Matthew 28:18-20** New International Version (NIV)

**18**Then Jesus came to them and said,

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Here He Shows His credentials, then instructs.

**19**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

**20**and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

*(notice here EVERYTHING I HAVE WHAT!! COMMANDED you)*

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Again -- Notice that? Everything I have commanded you

and also

I AM WITH YOU TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE!!)

So our instructions from our Savior is?

We are to share our faith and tell nonbelievers about the wonderful changes Jesus Christ has made in our lives.

No matter what our maturity level in the Christian life, we have something to offer.

Too often, we believe the lie from Satan that we don't really know enough or haven't been a Christian long enough to make a difference.

**Not true!** Some of the most enthusiastic representatives of the Christian life are new believers who have just discovered the awesome love of God.

They may not know a lot of Bible verses or the "accepted" way of saying things, but they have experienced the love of the **living God,** and **that is exactly what we are to share**.

**Finish**

**Prayer**

*Father, again we thank You, that You, through the Holy Spirit, have drawn us to this place of fellowship. The gathering together of YOUR PEOPLE IN THIS Kingdom.*

*Father thank You for this word, Open our eyes, open our hearts, open our minds*

*O Father to ALL those things You have planned for us.*

*Those things we cannot even comprehend.*

*Holy Spirit - Take our hands, Guide us, lead us to do those things You wish us to do in the name of Jesus.*

*Blessings to You Father.*

*We pray this through Jesus Christ our savior, our King, Our Lord*

*Amen*