

# SECRET DISCIPLES?

When someone reads this title and then asks, "You mean there is such a thing as a secret disciple?" Before you claim this as getting off balance or some unbiblical statement, just keep reading. Apparently there were some in the Bible that did think there was such a thing as a secret disciple. So before someone gets all excited thinking, "Alright, if it is in the Bible and it is okay I'll sign up." Hold on and don't become too excited yet. First of all, we don't see Jesus calling any of us to be "secret agents" for Him. A secret disciple is one who kept hidden their belief in Christ. When the kids sing "This Little Light of Mine" and they go to the verse, "Hide it under a bushel"....I don't believe I ever heard anyone sing, "Yes, Yes, Yes!"

Let's take a look at two references regarding secret disciples in the Bible.



## 1. **John 12:42:**

This Scripture says that many leading men, authorities, and nobles believed and trusted in Jesus. However, they refused to admit it. Whether these men were weak in their faith at the time or if they grew much stronger in their faith we do not know. Many of these leaders feared excommunication from the synagogue. To acknowledge Christ as the Messiah (at this time) meant just that (John 9:22). For some of these men, this was also their livelihood. It most likely would have also meant a loss of status in their community. They were caught in a trap and valued the approval of men...most likely indicating a fear of man as well.

They may have believed in Jesus (so does the devil), but would Christ even consider them as one of His own? We have people today who may be hindered because of the same reasons. There are all sorts of fears that may keep people from acknowledging their belief in Jesus Christ, but we all must reach the point in our lives when we make a choice and consider the consequences on both sides of this "coin." Jesus told us in Matthew 10:28 that we should not be afraid of those who can kill the body. The One we should be afraid of is Him Who can kill both soul and body in hell. The decision is an eternal matter for us.

The Scriptures also say the following when it comes to this area and whether we can keep our belief in Him hidden:

**Romans 10:10 (NKJV)** <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

**1 John 4:15 (NKJV)** <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

Last, Jesus had this to say:

**Matthew 10:32-33 (NKJV)** <sup>32</sup> "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men,

him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."

According to these Scriptures, I would question anyone getting by with being a "secret disciple."



**2. John 19:38**

"Joseph of Arimathea - a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because of his fear of the Jews..." From what we know, Joseph and Nicodemus were affected more and changed by Jesus' death than by His life. It is felt these two may have been some who are spoken of in our previous Scripture reference. We know (according to Luke 23:50-51) that Joseph had not agreed to the rest of the council's decision concerning Jesus.

It is following Jesus' death that they made that step out of hiding. Joseph went to Pilate to ask for Jesus' body in order to place Him in his own tomb. The realization of who Jesus really was brought out His belief. He may have at one time been hesitant and fearful as some may be today; but there comes a time when each of us are confronted with the death of Jesus and we should and can be changed to then believe, take the next step and proclaim and finally to act and become His disciple.

When one believes and proclaims His belief, we are changed. That change is not something we can hold in and keep to ourselves. The transformation He brings should be evident to all we touch.

So, the answer to our original question: NO! Secret disciples are not a part of God's plan and those who consider themselves so had better re-evaluate their position

according to the Word Jesus spoke. It just isn't possible to be a  Secret Disciple.