

A DISCIPLE FOLLOWS

A disciple is a follower, and depending on who you follow that can be either good or bad. Being a disciple is two-fold.



WE ARE TO BE DISCIPLES/FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST.

In Luke 10:27, Jesus said that whoever did not carry his own cross and follow Him could not be His disciple. Each one of us have our own cross and it may not be the same as others. When Jesus spoke this, His audience was familiar with what was meant. When the Romans led criminals to their execution, they were forced to carry the cross on which they would die. It showed his forced submission to Rome and observers were to "take it to heart." Jesus does not force us to take up our cross, but we are to willingly do it and submit to His authority and follow Him. We dare not lay it down, but we continually carry it and routinely do what He did. We do it out of love and devotion.

A disciple (as He learns from the One he is following) will be like his teacher (Luke 6:40) and that takes time. It is as we see and understand Jesus, His nature and character, we will become like Him. that means we need to be a student of Him. In verse 40 (Luke 6), it adds that we will be like Him when we are fully trained. finding one who can help us (mentor us) is important. This needs to be a person who themselves are following Christ and one we can trust and one that can keep us encouraged and on the right path. That is where accountability plays an important part of the discipleship process. The goal is that we who are being disciples can also go and make disciples ourselves. It should be a chain reaction/multiplication.

Psalm 1:3 (AMP)

³ And he shall be like a tree firmly planted [and tended] by the streams of water, ready to bring forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also shall not fade *or* wither; and everything he does shall prosper [and come to maturity].



WE OURSELVES ARE TO MAKE DISCIPLES (Matthew 28:19,20)

The process of making disciples starts with laying a foundation. Once an individual has accepted Christ as their Savior, they are not to be left to themselves. There is a process as Jesus lays out. This includes

a. Baptizing them. They will need to be instructed why this is important and its significance.

b. Begin teaching them what it means to take up their cross and follow Him. That means a life of obedience and submission.

c. Helping them to study the word of God for themselves (knowing how to find the answers, learning what the Shepherd asks of us regarding following Him. This is also the opportunity to teach them how to use the basic Bible study aids available to learn and personalize God's Word for themselves.

d. Laying the foundations in their lives so that as they build, their life will be built in such a way it will stand when "storms" in our lives blow in on us (Luke 6:47-49). Also refer to Hebrews 6:1,2 for foundations on which to build (6 Elementary Teachings)

Isaiah 8:16 sums up in a few words the purpose of discipleship. "Bind up the testimony. Seal up the instructions among my disciples." What a beautiful analogy we have here. In these days scrolls could be sealed either by tying a string around them and sealing the knot or by placing them in a jar and sealing the cover. The clay or seal would be impressed with the owner's seal. We are earthen vessels, Christ is the treasure we carry within us, and as we make disciples, we are to seal up those teachings of Christ among our disciples...that seal showing Christ's ownership mark upon them.

The Bible contains many examples of models we can study and follow when it comes to making disciples. We encourage you to study these as role models to follow:

1. Moses to Joshua
2. Elijah to Elisha
3. Samuel to David
4. Paul to Timothy and Titus
5. Jesus to the 12