

The Essentials Of Being A Disciple of Christ

Introduction:

Jesus Christ is inviting you to be His follower. He loves you enough to die your death. Now he wants to live in your heart as the Lord of your life. This call to be Christ’s disciple is going out to everyone, no matter what you have done or where you are at. Look at who ended up with Christ: a.) unscrupulous business folks, b.) illiterate blue collar workers, c.) prostitutes, d.) the demonized, e.) mentally ill, f.) thief on the cross next to Jesus, g.) good ole fashioned card carrying sinners and pagans. (Mark 2:13-17)

In every individual case, even though the people and stories are very different, there are the same bottom line essentials for being a follower of Christ. One of the best ways to mature as a disciple, is to help someone else follow Christ.

For you to encounter Christ and follow Him with your whole heart, it is critical that you comprehend the Biblical – Kingdom worldview. There are realms of reality, created by God, that dictate how life actually works.

- A. The heavenly realm – Eph. 1:3,20, 2:6
 1. All around you are angels, demons...and a great cloud of witnesses (those who have died and are with Christ). Great story: 2 Kings 6:16-17
- B. You are created in God’s image, a tripartite being: Spirit, Soul, and Body. 1 Thess. 5:23
- C. Your human spirit is the part of you that interacts with the spirit or heavenly realm. 1 Cor. 6:17
- D. The goal is to be born again in your spirit, so that you can properly see and interact with the Three Persons of the Trinity, be led by the Holy Spirit, see the kingdom of God, and extend the kingdom of God on earth. John 3:3-8

Essentials For Being A Disciple of Christ:

1. **Seeing Jesus** for who He is with the eyes of your heart: Discipleship starts by seeing Jesus with the eyes of the heart. Who is this man Christ Jesus? People see but do not see. Hear but do not hear. (Matt. 13:10-23) God and the heavenly realm are totally real. However, they are invisible to our physical eyes because God is Spirit. Everything in the natural comes from the spiritual realm. (Heb. 11:3) As those created in the image of God, we also have human “spirits” that have a capacity to become one with the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 6:17-; 1 Thess. 5:23; Jn. 4:24) Therefore, it takes the Holy Spirit to open our inner eyes and ears to see and hear from the “heavenly realm”. (Eph. 1:3,20, 2:6) Because God is Spirit and He lives in the heavenly realm (spirit realm), it requires the awakening and rebirth of our spiritual man to access and encounter God. Only our human spirit, when born again from “above”, can access and become one with God, Who is Spirit. (John 3:5-15) The language of the heart and the Spirit is dreams, visions, parables, stories, inner pictures (imagination), intuition, impressions, but all based in the objective truth of the Word of God as revealed in the Bible. Acts 2:17-

Seeing Christ with the eyes of the heart is essential! Many can see physically but not see spiritually. We can hear physically and not hear spiritually. Many are mental converts but haven’t seen Christ with the eyes of their hearts. They made a decision for Christ in their minds by their wills. The natural mind cannot ascertain or comprehend the things of the Spirit. (1 Cor. 2:12-16) God wants our spirits captivated by the Person of Jesus Christ.

- A. If God removed the veil between the seen and unseen..what would we see? Thousands of angels....demons...Jesus.....saints in heaven... the heavenly realm.
The quality of the heart determines the level of revelation. People will see what their hearts want to see. The mind will justify what the heart desires. If the heart desires independence..then it will get what it wants. If the heart desires to be the center of attention... if the heart desires to be god...to be in control... that is a hard heart. We can see with our natural eyes...but not with our spiritual eyes... though seeing they do not see...
God in His mercy only lets us “see” as much as our hearts can handle. The greater the clarity the greater the accountability and judgment. Therefore, a broken and contrite heart, a pure heart, a humble heart is the heart that will “see” most clearly into the heavenly realm.
- B. Mind cannot understand the things of the spirit. (1 Cor. 2:11-16)
- C. Why doesn't God open the spiritual eyes of everyone in your city. Because we are judged by God according to our level of revelation. To the degree we see the unseen realm...is the degree of our accountability and judgment. A revelation doesn't necessarily determine character. If the heart is hard, wicked, self-absorbed...then a clearer vision of Jesus could be eternally dangerous. God let's the heart become the barometer of the degree of revelation. Humility, purity of heart is the criterion for seeing God.
2. **Value Jesus:** Our level of love, commitment and obedience will be determined by how much we perceive Christ's value. If only our intellect, will, and emotions are involved, there will be a very limited response to Christ. But if our spirit encounters The Spirit, and we receive revelation of Christ then we will become white-hot lovers of God. Seeing the real Jesus Christ, our pearl & treasure of priceless value, will cause us to sell all. We will give up everything, including ourselves, to follow the King of kings, and the Lord of Lords. The early disciples “saw” Christ, causing their hearts to abandon their earthly agenda. What would cause successful business people to leave everything to follow Christ. They saw him with the eyes of their hearts. (Matt. 13:44-45)
When you see Him...you see His priceless value. His infinite worth. If you gain Christ, you gain everything. Nothing and no one comes even close to Him. He is the Source of all Life. He is the ongoing Source of Life.
- Who is Jesus Christ?**
1. The image of the invisible God. He is God. Col. 1:15-20; John 1, John 10:30
 2. The eternally begotten son of God. Matt. 3:17; John 3:16;
 3. He was both identified with the first Adam race, but he is also the “last Adam”. 1 Cor. 15
 4. He is the savior of the world. Luke 2:11; Titus 2:13
 5. He is King and Lord. Rev. 19:16
 6. All things were created by Him and for Him. Col. 1:16; John 1:3
 7. All things in heaven and earth are being brought under His rule. Eph. 1:9-10
3. **Turning away from, “drop”, everything** else in light of the infinite worth of Jesus: You lay everything down. You drop everything...including yourself. You burn your life script. Everything changes in light of who he is. Your entire identity changes in light of who He is. Your entire focus of life changes. He is a total game changer. Repentance. (Matt. 4:18-22; Mark 1:14-20; 2:13-17; Luke 5:1-11, 5:27)
4. **Sell Everything (not necessarily literal in the area of things..but Christ may ask for everything literally!):** Giving everything (especially one's entire self) in order to “acquire” Christ. You sell everything....you give up everything....you invest everything you have....to BE with Him and to Follow

Him. You are all in. Nothing you own is yours...including yourself. Economics are always involved..because where treasure is there is heart also. (Matt. 13:44-45)

5. **Become One With Christ** Under His Lordship: Christ comes inside your heart as King. You come into oneness with Jesus. He comes into you and you come into Him. (prayer)....you hear His voice....you obey Him (quickly, completely, cheerfully). (Eph. 3:14-21;
A disciple lives in total identification with Christ: 1 Cor. 6:17; Gal. 2:20; Romans 6:1-14; Eph. 2:4-10; 1 Cor. 15:45-49; John 14:12;
 - A. Jesus is bringing many sons to glory. Heb. 2:10
 - B. What he did, I do.
He died. I died.
He was buried. I am buried.
He was raised. I am raised.
 - C. Who he is, I am. A son of God (not implying that we are God). We are created sons of God. Ro. 8
 - D. Where he is, I am. Seated with Christ.
 - E. What he thinks, I think.
 - F. What he believes, I believe.
 - G. What he wants, I want.
 - H. What he feels, I feel.
 - I. His character is my character.
 - J. Who and what he loves, I love.
 - K. What he hates, I hate.
 - L. What he does, I do.
 - M. How he was animated and empowered, I am animated and empowered.
6. **Baptism**
 - A. Water (repentance, faith, death to self, resurrection life, entrance into the family of God),
 - B. Holy Spirit Sealed Within (to become like Christ from the inside out),
 - C. Holy Spirit Comes Upon (to have the Power of Christ to advance the kingdom of God).
7. **Come Fully Into Family-Community:** He connects you with other followers... at a head, heart, hand level. You illustrate the body of Christ. New Covenant Community.
8. **Develop a secret life in God** in the secret place:
9. **Character:** Ongoing Transformation into His likeness: He keeps transforming your heart motives and attitudes i.e. character... Your internal operating system gets transformed toward God's glory...becoming a worshipper as a lifestyle. It is all about the glory of God.
10. **Calling:** Commissioned into the army: He gives you his mission..His purpose... You will be a "son of light" who displaces the kingdom of darkness (Satanic and demonic influence) with the Kingdom of God... you will advance the kingdom of God in a certain geographical place. You will
 - A. You pray "down" the kingdom...
 - B. You proclaim the kingdom in word and deed.
 - C. You make disciples of the king in the kingdom.
 - D. You rule and reign in the kingdom. You are given the ministry of reconciliation... helping connect people to God and others...through the cross...the blood of Jesus.

11. **Competency:** We receive and utilize spiritual gifts to edify the Body and advance the kingdom of God. Skills, talents, increased wisdom and knowledge to be effective in our vocation and occupations....the roles and responsibilities we have been given.

12. **Perseverance:** As a disciple, you will be persecuted, slandered, betrayed and more. Pick up your cross daily. Totally forgive everyone from the heart. Keep going..keep loving...keep glorifying God!

Resources:

One Year Bible Reading Plan:

http://www.oneyearbibleonline.com/readingplan/oneyearbiblereadingplan_1up.pdf

“Secrets of the Secret Place” by Bob Sorge