



...but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, ... (Ephesians 4:15)

Part 3 — BECOMING A DISCIPLE

Foundational steps

1. The first step in becoming a disciple is our surrender to the Lordship of Christ. Our will must bow to His in defined and open commitment. (Galatians 2:20)
2. The second step is to develop Godly convictions which are basic principles we determine to follow without compromise. It is our heart and our will committed to God's Principles. (Daniel 1:8)

What is a disciple?

1. A disciple is someone who has believed on the Lord Jesus. This is a belief that produces action. (Acts 2:37-41; 16:29-31)
2. A disciple is someone who loves Christ first in life. (Luke 14:26)
3. A disciple is someone who has forsaken his or her ways and acknowledges Christ's absolute Lordship in life. (Luke 14:27; Galatians 2:20)
4. A disciple is someone who abides in God's Word and holds it as the standard for life. (John 8:31)
5. A disciple is someone who is committed to loving other Christian brothers and sisters with God's love. (John 13:34-35)
6. A disciple is someone who reproduces him or herself in others and teaches them to follow and obey Christ with the same passion they follow and obey Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Jesus' teaching on discipleship in the Sermon on the Mount

The Sermon on the Mount is the title given to Jesus' teachings in Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7. Although many were present, this sermon seems to have been directed primarily at His disciples. (Matthew 5:1) Here are a few of the main themes Jesus addresses.

1. A disciple is committed to deeper Truth and accountability as seen in the Beatitudes. (5:1-12)
2. Christ's disciples are salt (flavor) and light (declarative) in society. (5:13-16)
3. The Ten Commandments deal with outward behavior while discipleship deals with the deeper attitudes of the heart. (5:17-48)
4. Christ gave His disciples a specific prayer pattern that incorporates the elements of praise, priorities, provision, pardon and power. (6:5-14)
5. A disciple understands the destructive behavior of dual lordship (God and mammon) and fully trusts in the faithfulness of God to provide. (6:19-34)
6. A disciple first judges his or her own life before judging another person's life. (7:1-5)
7. A disciple is one who perseveres in prayer. (7:7-12)
8. Discipleship is difficult but has great rewards. (7:13-14)
9. A disciple understands the important root-fruit principles. (7:15-20)
10. Obedience to Christ's words is the foundation upon which a disciple builds his or her life. Obedience brings blessing, disobedience or ignoring His word brings destruction. (7:24-29)

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I desire to go beyond where I am and become a dedicated follower and disciple. I surrender my life to You and ask that You would develop within me the conviction to turn from the things of this world and devote myself to the priorities of Your Kingdom. Lord Jesus, fill me with Your Holy Spirit and the power to serve You. Amen