

One Lord

Discipleship

OPENING QUESTION: What does it mean to be a Christian? Let's find out how the Bible defines it:

Acts 11:19-26

The Definition

How does the Bible define the term Christian? (Christian = Disciple of Jesus)

How many times do you think the word Christian appears in the Bible? (3)

How many times do you think the word Disciple appears in the Bible? (Almost 300)

Since the term "Christian" only appears in the Bible three times, the better term to study out would be "Disciple". So, let's examine each of the gospels to see what Jesus says it means to be his disciple.

Mark 1:16-20

The Call to Discipleship

What would you say is your mission in life currently?

What was these fishermen's mission in life before they met Jesus? (To catch fish)

What was their mission to become after deciding to follow Jesus? (To catch men)

A disciple's mission: to follow Jesus and become a fisher of men.

How quickly did they respond to Jesus? What nets do you need to leave behind?

Mark 8:34-38

The Challenge of Discipleship

What's the distinction between just being one of the crowd and being a disciple?

What does it mean to deny yourself? What do you personally need to deny to follow Jesus? How often do we need to carry our cross? (**Luke 9:23** – daily)

What do you gain by giving up everything for the gospel and for Jesus?

Luke 14:25-33

The Cost of Discipleship

A decision to follow Jesus should be carefully weighed.

What are the costs of (not) following him? What costs are we to consider?

1. Loving Him more than anyone or anything (v. 25-27)
2. Count the cost of following Jesus: "able to finish" (v. 28-30)
3. Count the cost of NOT following Jesus. (v. 31-33)
4. Jesus must be King/Lord: "surrender or be destroyed"

John 8:31-32

The Standard of Discipleship

Does belief alone make someone a disciple of Jesus? (NO! we must obey as well)

Believer + Follower → Disciple. One must believe in Jesus AND follow him.

When we put the teachings of Jesus into practice, then we know the truth and can be set free (from a life of sin).

Matthew 28:18-20 *The Commission of Discipleship*

What does Jesus want everyone to become?

How will this be accomplished? By every disciple being committed to:

1. Go and make disciples of all nations
2. Baptize them
3. Teach them to obey everything he commanded (including the command just given to go make disciples!)

Is this similar to a verse we looked at earlier?

(“fishers of men” – Jesus starts and ends his ministry with the same basic idea: a disciple should be a disciple-maker.) Let’s look at an example of this in action:

Acts 9:1-20 *A disciple is a disciple-maker*

Ananias (a disciple) made a disciple of Saul. (After believing, Saul was baptized)

Saul then connected with and spent time with other disciples. (He was taught)

Saul immediately began proclaiming Jesus. (He began fishing for men)

When Saul became a disciple, Jesus became the One Lord of his life.

Personal Decisions:

Are you currently (living as) a disciple of Jesus?

If no(t), what do you need to change to become a disciple?

Will you commit to following Jesus daily and helping others to do so as well?

Take some church cards and begin inviting family, friends, and neighbors to come with you.