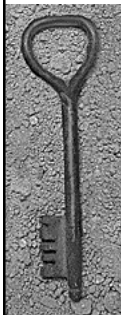


1. What is a Disciple?

5 Basic Discipleship Principles

- ◆ A person who lives continually by the Word of God (Ps.119:9-11, 105; John.8:51)
- ◆ A person who completely commits his life to the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt.6:24)
- ◆ A person who lives a fruit-bearing relationship with Christ (John 15:4-5; Matt.7:16)
- ◆ A person who commits to unconditional sacrificial love for others (John 13:34-35)
- ◆ A person who is dedicated to the fulfilment of Christ's 'Great Commission' (Matt.28:18-20)



Disciples are Very Privileged People

- ◆ Called and chosen by God (Eph.4:1-5)
- ◆ Jesus is their Saviour: He died on the cross for them so that their sins could be forgiven, making them acceptable to God (Rom.5:8)
- ◆ God is their Father, whom they have a personal relationship with through Christ and His Spirit. (Gal.4:6-7)
- ◆ They have been given eternal life (John 3:16)
- ◆ They are at peace with God (Rom.5:1)
- ◆ God will not take His love from them (Rom.8:38-39)

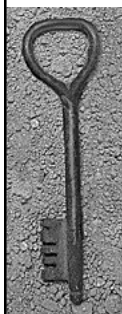




Disciples have Responsibility

Make a firm decision

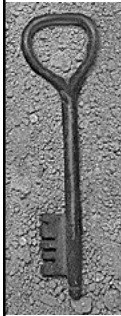
- ✓ Disciples need to make a firm decision to be obedient to Jesus' commands.
- ✓ Our decision to follow Jesus is not an emotional response, but a definite act of will, which has to be carried through into action and fruit.
- ✓ There are times when you need to submit significant decisions to those in spiritual authority so that they can help you to discern what God's will is for your life. Disciples never 'go it alone', but work as part of the Body of Christ otherwise they can be open to deception.



Evidence of a Disciple's Maturity

- ✓ There will be changes for the better in your attitude towards people, money, business practice and social responsibility (i.e. Everything!)
- ✓ You will experience the refining or purifying of your life, so that many negative thoughts, attitudes and actions which are inconsistent with the life of Jesus will be removed.
- ✓ When you desire to act like Jesus, He will give you the faith to do so. When necessary you can confess doubt and ask for forgiveness and faith.
- ✓ Love will govern your actions, words and attitudes. You will become more willing to forgive; you will have greater compassion for those in need and a greater concern for the lost.
- ✓ Even when obedience proves costly, you will not be the loser, for God always gives back far more than is given to Him.
- ✓ Changes will take place in some of your old habits because the Lord wants to see those changes in you. Submit willingly to these changes, and resist temptation to compromise your Saviour Jesus.
- ✓ By taking your discipleship seriously you will seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness first. You can be confident that God will keep His promise and provide for your every need. As He did with Jesus. (Matt.6:33)





Summary & Application

1. We need to be totally committed to Jesus Christ, making Him our Lord.
2. Every disciple asks, 'What would Jesus do?' in every situation they are faced with.
3. We need to live continuously and consistently in God's Word as His disciples in fellowship with other Christians so that we will know Him better and not become disillusioned and confused.
4. We need to see God as our loving Heavenly Father who only wants our ultimate good.
5. We need to love and serve God first, others second and ourselves last.

