

How to be a Real Disciple of Jesus Christ

Hear, O Christian: The Lord our God, is the great, the mighty, the holy, and the awesome God. The one true God has revealed himself through Jesus Christ, our Lord. When you heard the Word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Jesus Christ, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit. God your Heavenly Father has given you a new heart. 'If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Read this tract carefully and it will help you to see from the Bible how to live as a real disciple of Christ.

1. Study the Bible, God's word

The Bible is God's eternal, unchanging Word; it is true from cover to cover and without error. God speaks to you through his Word. Read and study the Bible every day and you will learn to know more about God, his divine nature and holy character. You should read both the New and the Old Testament:

'Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord' (Deuteronomy 8:3).

'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path' (Psalm 119:105).

'How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word ... I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you' (Psalm 119:9,11).

'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly' (Colossians 3:16).

'All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work' (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Jesus said, 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free' (John 8:31-32).

2. Spend time in prayer

God speaks to you through his Word, and you speak to God through prayer. Learn to pray every day, confessing your sin, asking for forgiveness, praising God's name and thanking him for his goodness and mercy. Learn to pray for others as well as yourself:

Jesus said, 'When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret will reward you' (Matthew 6:6).

'Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful' (Colossians 4:2).

'And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests ... always keep on praying for all the saints' (Ephesians 6:18).

'Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus' (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

3. A holy life, worthy of the gospel

It is God's will that you should be holy. You should live a life worthy of the gospel. God wants you to become more like Jesus. As a Christian, you are no longer a slave to sin. This does not mean that you will not sin, but you must not live in sin:

And if you sin, then confess your sin to God and he is faithful and just to cleanse you from your sin (1 John 1:9).

'God chose us in him (Jesus) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him' (Ephesians 1:4).

'As obedient children do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:14).

'Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God' (Colossians 1:10).

'Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ' (Philippians 1:27).

'The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning' (1 John 3:8,9).

'Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin shall not be your master...' (Romans 6:13).

4. Obey the commands of God

You must obey God's commands. The old hymn is true, 'Trust and obey for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey'. God's law, which has the purpose of restraining evil and promoting righteousness, is a rule of life for real disciples. God's holy laws are right and for your good:

'This is love for God; to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God has overcome the world' (1 John 5:3-4).

'So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or the left. Walk in all the way the Lord your God has commanded you...' (Deuteronomy 5:32).

'What does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandment...' (Deuteronomy 10:12)

Jesus said, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments... If anyone loves me, he will keep my word' (John 14:15, 23).

5. A life of self denial, separate from the ways of the world

You must put Jesus first in your life and follow him with all your heart, mind and strength. You must even be prepared to suffer for the sake of the gospel. It is God's will that his people should be separate from the culture and attitude of the world. As a Christian you must be different, for God has called you to be a light in this dark world:

Jesus said, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow

me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it ... ' (Luke 9:23,24).

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might' (Deuteronomy 6:5).

'All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted' (2 Timothy 3:12).

'Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions – is not from the Father but is from the world.' (1 John 2:15-16).

'Don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God' (James 4:4).

'Seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth' (Colossians 3:1-2).

6. Behave like a Christian in every area of your life

Remember that you must serve God in every area of your life. Therefore, learn to be hard-working in everything, and do not waste time or be lazy. Be honest and upright in everything. Be kind and gentle with others, putting their interests before your own. Be careful how you speak and always tell the truth. Do not swear or curse. Avoid sexual immorality, flee temptation:

'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him' (Colossians 3:17).

'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving' (Colossians 3:23-24).

'Flee from sexual immorality' (1 Corinthians 6:18)

'But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving' (Ephesians 5:3).

'Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord' (Romans 12:9-11).

7. Confess him before men

As a disciple you must tell others what God has done for you. You are God's witness on earth, so take every opportunity to proclaim the gospel of Christ:

Jesus said, 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age' (Matthew 28:19).

'You are the light of the world ... let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven' (Matthew 5:14,16).

'I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:17).

As you grow in the Christian faith by reading and studying God's word, you will show the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life.

'Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh ... The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control: against such things there is no law' (Galatians 5:16, 22).

Disciple of Jesus Christ, throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and run with perseverance the race marked out for you. Fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith, who for the joy set before him endured the Cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1-2).

You must fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith. In the future there is laid up for you the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to you, and all your brothers and sisters in Christ, on that Day.

Produced by Grace Baptist Church, Dorking Road, Epsom (Opposite Epsom Hospital). Our church service are at 11am and 6.30pm every Sunday, and Sunday school at 9.30 am. You are most welcome to attend. If you would like help in understanding the Christian gospel please phone Pastor Brian Moody on 01372 728826 or by email to : brian.moody1@ntlworld.com.