

The Marks Of A Disciple Of Jesus Christ

Your child is now 12 years old. As a Christian parent, what should be your goal for their life?

You should want them to grow up to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Or perhaps your children are grown or you don't have any children. The Lord uses you to win a lost friend to Christ. What should be your goal for their life?

You should want them to grow up to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

But what does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? What does a disciple of Jesus Christ look like?

Men use the call to be a disciple of Jesus to manipulate converts to be disciples of themselves rather than disciples of Jesus.

There is no other explanation for all the differences in the way disciples look in the body of Christ.

What a tragedy? Men manipulating converts in the name of Christ to be disciples of themselves. This means many people are being deceived. It also explains why the church is losing the cultural war in our nation. Jesus said if I be lifted up I will draw all men unto myself.

John 12:32

32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

KJV

So what does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? What does a disciple of Jesus Christ look like? What do you want your twelve year old child to look like when it is time to send them out of your nest? What do you want a new convert to look like when you are finished being their mentor? What are the marks of a genuine disciple of Jesus Christ?

Some would say Godly character.

I would agree that Godly character is important. It is certainly one of the marks. But I have met lost people who have Godly character.

Some would say Godly disciplines.

I would agree that Godly disciplines are important. Disciple means disciplined one. It is certainly one of the marks. But some of the meanest people I know are some of the most disciplined people I know. And some of the people that I know that are most like Jesus are some of the fattest people I know.

What are the marks of a disciple of Jesus that set them apart as Christ followers?

A disciple is not greater than His master. To discover the marks of a disciple of Jesus that should set us apart we should look at the life of Jesus.

- A disciple of Jesus Christ loves to have fellowship with God. He loves to be alone with God and talk with God.

Jesus was always making time to be alone with the Father.

Luke 6:12

12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

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He was busy. But He never got too busy to spend time alone with His heavenly Father. Prayer was one of His most important commands to His followers. But as the son of man He prayed because He loved to have fellowship with the Father. This marked His life.

It concerned Him when His disciples could not tarry with him for one hour. What kind of disciples would they be if did not love to be alone with God and talk with God? This is the first mark of a disciple of Jesus Christ.

- A disciple of Jesus Christ loves to learn the will of God for His life. He loves to study the scriptures to discover the will of God for His life.

Jesus said that He was always seeking the will of the Father for His life. He said He only did what he saw His father doing and He only said what He heard His father saying.

John 8:38

38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

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He challenged His disciples by saying; if you love me keep my commandments. He made it clear to them that He was their rabbi and their authority and that they should seek to understand and obey His commands. His last prayers for them were prayers that focused on the obedience of His disciples. A disciple of Jesus loves to learn the will of God for His life. This is the second mark of a disciple of Jesus.

- A disciple of Jesus Christ loves his brothers and sisters in Christ. He will lay down his life to meet the needs of his brothers and sisters in Christ.

For three years, Jesus loved His disciples like they had never been loved. He loved being with them. They were His family. He made this clear when His maternal family came to see Him. He was normally with them night and day unless He went off to pray or unless He sent them on a special mission. He provided for their physical needs as the Father provided for Him. He watched over their souls. He taught them. He reproved them. He picked them up when they failed.

He charged His disciples to have the same love for one another that He had for them.

John 13:34

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

KJV

He commanded them to lay down their lives for one another. He said that the world would know that they were His disciples by their love for one another.

John 13:35

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

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He called His disciples to assemble into local churches so that they could carry out this command in the same way that He carried it out with His disciples. A disciple of Jesus loves His brothers and sisters in Christ. This is the third mark of a disciple of Jesus.

- A disciple of Jesus Christ loves lost people. There is nothing more valuable to him in this world than the soul of a lost person. There is nothing in this world that means more to him than winning lost people to Jesus Christ.

Jesus loved His disciples. But he made it clear to them that He would leave those who were safe in the fold to reach those who were not. He was constantly shocking His disciples by reaching out to the worst sinners and those who did not fit in their group; women, children, the poor, the harlot, Romans, Samaritans, lepers, and the criminally insane. He loved them all. He made it clear to his disciples that he came for people like this.

He made it clear to His disciples that He had go away from them to enable them to reach the same kind of people that He had reached. He made it clear to them that His death was not just for them or the Jews. He commanded them to make disciples of all nations and then He empowered them to do it. He sent the Holy Spirit because it was only by the life changing power of the Holy Spirit that they would be able to love lost people the way that He loved them. A disciple of Jesus loves lost people. This is the fourth mark of a disciple of Jesus.

Now how many of these marks of a disciple do you have in your life? Do you have enough to even call yourself a disciple of Jesus Christ?

A disciple of Jesus Christ loves to have fellowship with God. He loves to be alone with God and talk with God.

A disciple of Jesus Christ loves to learn the will of God for His life. He loves to study the scriptures to discover the will of God for His life.

A disciple of Jesus Christ loves his brothers and sisters in Christ. He will lay down his life to meet the needs of his brothers and sisters in Christ. He loves to be with them and to worship with them.

A disciple of Jesus Christ loves lost people. There is nothing more valuable to him than the soul of a lost person. There is nothing in this world that means more to him than winning lost people to Jesus Christ.

If you have made a disciple, how have you done in making disciples of Jesus Christ?

If you have children who have left your nest or you have been a mentor to a new convert, how have you done? Do they have these marks? How many of these marks? Why are some of these marks missing in their lives? Is it because they have been missing in your life?

I know that all disciples have a free will. But of the ones that have been fully willing to cooperate with you, do they have all of these marks?

Making a disciple of yourself is good if you have all the marks of a disciple of Jesus Christ? Paul said be a follower of me as I am of Christ Jesus. Do you have all these marks? How many? How many are missing?

To have all of these marks you must be born again. These marks are the supernatural result of the Holy Spirit coming to live in your heart to make you like Jesus.

But you can be born again and not have these marks. You can be deceived and become someone else's disciple other than Jesus. Remember, men use the call to be a disciple of Jesus to manipulate converts to be disciples of themselves rather than disciples of Jesus. There is no other explanation for all the differences in the way disciples look in the body of Christ.

Have you unknowingly become someone else's disciple other than Jesus?

If you have, would you repent to Jesus today? Would you tell Him that you will be His disciple and that you want His marks in your life? Would you ask Him to do a work in your heart so that you will be like Him?

It will anger some people. It will threaten some people. It will cause some people to say that you are deceived. You may lose your best friends in the church. You will lose the trust and respect of people that you love. You may be called a maverick or even a rebel. A servant is not above His master.

But remember, those people may have loved you and you may owe them a debt of gratitude, but no one else died for your sin. No one else paid your sin debt. No one else is your savior from sin and from hell. No one else is your Lord. No one else is ruler of the earth. No one else can say I will never leave you or forsake you. No one else will

raise you from the dead and make you fit for heaven. No one else will provide for your needs for all of eternity. No one else but Jesus!

Be a disciple of Jesus! Amen!