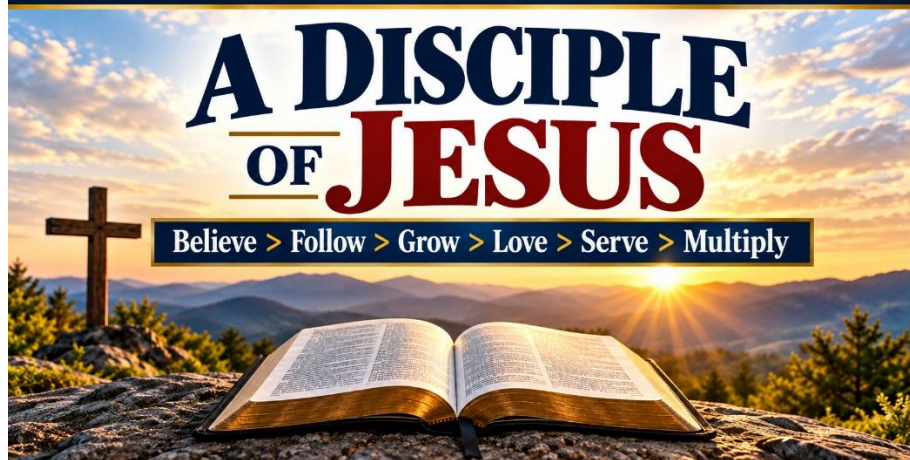


Saturday, 9/19/26 at 4:00 | Sunday, 9/20/26 at 9:00

Important Sermon Series - Saturdays at 4:00, Sundays at 9:00



Part 1 – Believe and Follow

Text: NAS 2020

Introduction

Dear friends: This is part 1 of a sermon series on being a disciple of Jesus. These are the basics:

- Christ makes disciples
- Christ sustains disciples through His means of grace
- Disciples continue in Christ
- Disciples bear fruit
- Disciples help make and strengthen other disciples

Note: Salvation is entirely God's gracious gift; God is faithful and desires to preserve us in faith; nevertheless, His warnings against unbelief and falling away are genuine and must be taken seriously.

These are the results of the recent Bethlehem survey:

1. Are Christians and Disciples the same? 60% indicated “yes” (see below)
2. Are Disciples and Apostles the same? 74% indicated “yes” (no, apostles are personally called and taught by Jesus)
3. Which term is more common in the New Testament – Christian or Disciple? 80% indicated Disciple (correct)
4. Do all Disciples continue in God’s word? 36% indicated “yes” (see below)
5. How can we know someone is a Christian – by what he knows or does? 93% indicated “does” (yes, but...)

Important: Outward works can give evidence of faith, but they do not make us Christians or justify us before God; salvation is by grace through faith in Christ.

Get this regarding the New Testament:

- “Christian” appears **3** times.
- “Disciple” appears over **250** times!

Understand this:

- **Christian** = a person who belongs to Christ through faith.
- **Disciple** = that Christian viewed as one who follows and learns from Christ.

The terms: They normally describe the SAME BELIEVER but emphasize different aspects of the Christian life.

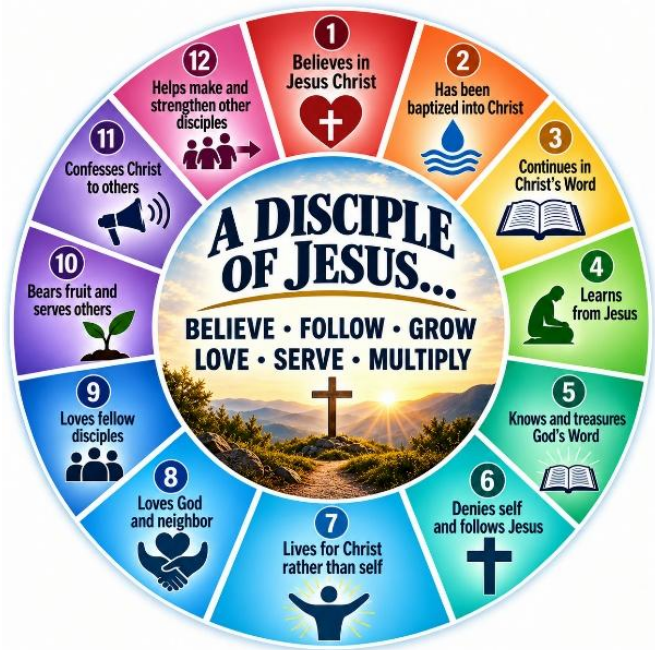
Note: A disciple must continue in Christ's Word and faith, for Scripture warns that a believer can fall away (Lk. 8:13; Heb. 3:12).

Now: A 12-point definition...

A DISCIPLE OF JESUS...

1 – Believes in Jesus Christ

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” // God loved, so He gave. The Holy



Spirit works through God's Word to reveal our need, call us to repentance, and create and sustain faith in Jesus for eternal life.

Acts 16:31 [To the Philippian jailer desiring salvation, Paul and Silas responded:] “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...” // What does it mean to believe? Two definitions:

- **KAT** – **K**nowledge (knowing God's word), **A**greement (agreeing that what we know is true), and **T**rust (trusting in Jesus for eternal life).
- **FAITH** – **F**orsaking **A**ll confidence in myself, **I** **T**rust **H**im. Saving faith itself is trust in Christ and His promise, created by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel.

2 – Has been Baptized into Christ

Matthew 28:19-20 [Jesus told of His complete authority, then He commanded:] “Go therefore and make disciples of all the

nations, baptizing them... [and] teaching them..." // In Baptism, God joins us to Christ and His saving death and resurrection and gives the forgiveness and new life He promises (Romans 6:3–4; Acts 2:38).

3 – Continues in Christ's Word

John 8:31–32 "...Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine...' // What does it mean to continue in His word?

- Keep hearing it!
- Keep learning it!
- Keep believing it!
- Keep living it!

4 – Learns from Jesus

Matthew 11:29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me [*follow Me, submit to My instruction, and let me be your guide*], for I am gentle and humble in heart [*compassionate and approachable*], and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS [*forgiveness, relief from earning God's acceptance, and peace with God*]."

Let Us Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, we are so blessed to believe in You and be Your followers. No matter where we are in our following, inspire us to **continue** in Your word, **submit** to Your instructions, and **rejoice** in God's salvation!

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