

Introduction to Discipleship

<http://www.christian-discipleship.com/>

1. Who Can Be a Disciple?
2. Why is Discipleship Important?
3. What is Discipleship?
4. What Process is Involved?



Who Can Be a Disciple?

- ➔ To be a disciple of Jesus, you must first be a believer.
- ➔ The first step to discipleship is being saved.
- ➔ Every believer is supposed to be a disciple
- ➔ No such thing as 'super Christians'. See Matthew 28:16-20



Why is Discipleship Important?

- ➔ Why do so many Christians fail to live up to Christ's standards?
- ➔ The answer is... they are not really Christ's disciples.
- ➔ They have not been taught Christ's teachings
- ➔ They have not been taught how to follow Christ's teachings
- ➔ Jesus is not the Lord of their life



Why Important continued...

- ➔ Christ did not come to earth, suffer, be ridiculed, die a painful death and suffer the consequences of our sins so that we could sit on a pew for an hour each Sunday
- ➔ We were meant to be both saved **from** sin and saved **for** service to God



So... What is Discipleship?

- ➔ Christian discipleship is the transformational process that turns a believer into the person God wants them to be.
- ➔ The believer, with the help of the Holy Spirit: learns Christ's teachings, applies them to their life and then follows them
- ➔ For more: <http://www.christian-discipleship.com/christian-discipleship/christian-discipleship-definition.html>



What is the Process Involved?

- ➔ Begins with believer's desire to want to be a disciple
- ➔ Pray for help, let God know you want to obey His will for you, seek help from the Holy Spirit
- ➔ You must let Christ be the Lord of your life.
- ➔ Matthew 11:30 “My yoke is easy...”



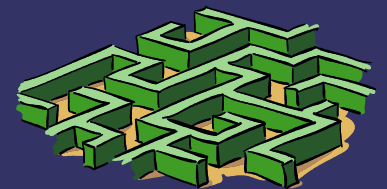
The Journey of 1000 Miles...

- ➔ As a non-believer you were probably raised with a worldview that was non or even anti-Christian
- ➔ You also have to identify any of your beliefs that do not line up with Christ's teachings
- ➔ Replace them with a worldview founded on Christ's teachings



The Teachings of Jesus Christ

- ➔ Start with the Gospels, split them up into small groups
- ➔ Make the teachings your own, desire to follow them and ask for the Holy Spirit to help you follow them
- ➔ Memorize the passages of Scripture that contain the teachings you are trying to learn
- ➔ Pray about them



Take Up Your Cross...

- ➔ ... and follow Him!
- ➔ Obedience is the most important part of discipleship.
- ➔ If you learn but don't follow you are not a disciple
- ➔ If you make mistakes or fail don't worry, keep trying until you get it
- ➔ When you are comfortable with a set of teachings, move onto the next group



Spiritual Disciplines as a Tool

- ➔ Following Christ's teachings is a lot harder than learning them
- ➔ One tool Christians have always used are commonly called the spiritual disciplines of silence, solitude, fasting, prayer, study and service
- ➔ These disciplines help train you with the help of the Holy Spirit to do what you normally could not



Value of Community

- ➔ You were not meant to be a 'lone Ranger' Christian
- ➔ You are meant to live and grow in a community of believers
- ➔ A community of mature believers can help you learn and obey Christ's teachings
- ➔ Small groups and personal mentors are also effective



More About Spiritual Disciplines

- ➔ These are not required, they are just tools they can help you
- ➔ Many instances of them in Scripture, see how others have used them
- ➔ For more info: <http://www.christian-discipleship.com/christian-spirituality/spiritual-disciplines.html>



Conclusion

- ➔ Discipleship is the calling of every believer
- ➔ Learn Christ's teachings
- ➔ Be transformed by them
- ➔ Follow them!
- ➔ ... and then teach others to be disciples as well
- ➔ God is calling you to transform the world one person at a time, start now!

