



# BEING A DISCIPLE

## What Does It Mean to Be a Disciple and to Disciple Others?

I have been studying discipleship lately so that I can become more intentional in “finishing my course,” to use the words of Paul. There is much written about it, but I am offering my own definition so that it might help you in your own journey of being faithful. First, I want to begin by simply showing you the different aspects of my definition, presented in an organized flow.

### A disciple is one who follows Christ:

- *trusting* in him alone for salvation
- *worshiping* him
- *loving* him with whole heart
- *imitating* his life
- *obeying* his teaching

### living dependently by:

- *abiding* in Christ
- *walking* in the Holy Spirit
- *meditating* on the word of God
- *engaging* in communion (prayer)
- *partnering* with the body of Christ (local church)

### resulting in the transformation of

- mind
- heart
- mission

### and leads others to do the same.

Second, let me develop each aspect a little more in order to anchor the different concepts to the word of God. This helps me to see the biblical significance of each point. You may want to search the Bible to see which additional passages you might include with each concept.

## DEFINITION

A **disciple** is one who follows Christ, trusting in him alone for salvation, worshiping his person, loving him with whole heart, imitating his life, and obeying his teaching, living dependently by abiding in Christ, walking in the Holy Spirit, meditating on the word of God, engaging in communion (prayer), and partnering with the body of Christ (local church) resulting in the transformation of the mind, the heart, and the life and leads others to do the same.



# BEING A DISCIPLE CONTINUED

## FOUR PARTS TO THE DEFINITION

### 1. A disciple is one who follows Christ

#### a. *trusting in him alone for salvation*

i. Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 3:21-27; 5:1, 6-8; Titus 2:14; 3:5; 1 Timothy 2:6; Galatians 1:4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 9:26-28; 1 John 2:2; 4:10; 5:12

#### b. *worshipping him*

i. Philippians 1:20-21; 2:5-11; Romans 14:7-9; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Galatians 2:20; 6:14; 1 Corinthians 2:2

#### c. *loving him with whole heart*

i. Matthew 6:24; Galatians 1:10; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Philippians 4:7-16

#### d. *imitating his life*

i. 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 John 2:6; John 13:15; John 15:10; 1 Peter 2:21; Matthew 11:29; 16:24-26

#### e. *obeying his teaching*

i. 1 Peter 1:2, 14, 22; Matthew 18:20; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:14; Matthew 12:50; 1 John 2:4-6, 29; 3:10, 24; 5:2-3

### 2. living dependently by

#### a. *abiding in Christ*

i. John 15:1-11; 1 John 2:24, 28

#### b. *walking in the Holy Spirit*

i. Galatians 5:13-26; Romans 8:1-17; John 7:37-39; 14:16-26; 15:26-27; 16:7-15; Ephesians 4:30

#### c. *meditating on the word of God*

i. Psalm 1; 119; Colossians 3:2; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:10, 14-17

#### d. *engaging in communion (prayer)*

i. Philippians 4:6-7; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18; Luke 11:1-10; 18:1; Colossians 1:3; 4:2; Romans 8:26-27; 1 Timothy 2:1, 8; 5:5

### 3. resulting in transformation of

#### a. *the mind*

i. Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:23; Romans 8:5-8; Philippians 2:5; Colossians 3:2

#### b. *the heart*

i. Colossians 3:10-17; Romans 6:4, 11; 7:6; 13:14; Ephesians 4:24; 2 Corinthians 4:16; 5:14-17

#### c. *the life*

i. Colossians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Matthew 6:33; Hebrews 12:1-3

### 4. and leads others to do the same

a. being a disciple implies discipleship. Narrow the definition: A disciple is one who follows Christ and leads others to do the same.

i. Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1; Philippians 4:9, 17; Titus 2:1-10; 2 Timothy 2:1-2

May the Lord help you as you seek to be a faithful disciple and as you call others to do the same. To him be the glory!