

WE WILL CONSIDER

- A 'disciple' is a 'follower'.
- True disciples of Jesus Christ follow his example in the way they live.
- This includes growing in the knowledge of God by reading the Bible; prayer; loving God and each other; meeting together, remembering Jesus Christ in bread and wine; and helping others follow Christ.

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What is a Disciple?

Disciples are 'followers'. Followers of Jesus Christ try to learn about the way he thought and lived so that they can think and live the same way in their own lives.

A disciple is someone who learns or follows. When the Bible talks about disciples, it usually means men and women who followed Jesus Christ. Sometimes it refers particularly to the 12 special disciples of Jesus Christ. We need to be disciples or followers of Jesus too.

Jesus describes his disciples as his family (Matthew 12:49). They are people who work hard to understand his word (Matthew 13:10-11) and who follow his ways whatever the cost (Matthew 21:6, Matthew 16:24).

Disciples of Jesus Christ meet regularly to remember him (Luke 22:19) and tell others of the good news about salvation from sin and death through him (Matthew 28:19).

What do disciples of Jesus do?

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

2 Peter 3:18

Jesus Christ told his disciples how to live in a way that is pleasing to God. Jesus Christ himself is our perfect example.

- **Disciples of Jesus Christ know him**

Jesus said: "This is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ" (John 17:3). We can only follow Jesus Christ if we know him – in fact, we can only have eternal life if we know him! We get to know him by reading the Bible and finding out what he did and what he said, and by trying to be like him in the way we live.

Discipleship

- **Disciples of Jesus Christ read the Bible and pray**

King David wrote "Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day." (Psalm 119:97) We can't have God's Word open all day, but after we have read it we can think about it often. We should also "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17) Prayer is pouring out our hearts to God (Psalm 62:8).

- **Disciples of Jesus Christ believe his word and are baptised**

Jesus told his disciples that "Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved." (Mark 16:15-16). Sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ by baptism (Romans 6:3-5) shows our love for him and our commitment to live the way he did.

- **Disciples of Jesus Christ meet together to remember him**

Before he died, Jesus told his disciples to eat bread and drink wine to remember his death and resurrection (Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Fellowship is very important: "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

- **Disciples of Jesus Christ love God and each other**

Jesus said: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...You shall love your neighbour as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-40). We should show our love for others in the way we treat them (1 John 3:18, Matthew 25:34-40). People should see that we are disciples of Jesus Christ by our love (John 13:34-35).

Things that Disciples do not do

The Bible is clear that there are activities that will prevent us being in God's Kingdom. These include anger, jealousy, fights, arguments, sexual immorality including homosexuality and adultery, drunkenness, theft and greed (Galatians 5:19-21, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

Instead we should develop the fruit of the spirit: "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).

More information

For more information, please don't hesitate to contact:

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SUMMARY

Disciples are followers of Jesus

Disciples of Jesus Christ are people who follow him

Followers of Jesus Christ try to think and act like him

There are things that disciples should do to be pleasing to God

There are things that disciples should not do, because some activities stop people from being in God's Kingdom.

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