

What is a disciple? (Part 2)

Getting started

1. From last week we saw a disciple is someone who learns Christ. What were some attractive and less attractive consequences of this?

Interestingly, there is no mention of disciples in the New Testament after Acts. However, the verb form of 'disciples'—*manthanō*, 'to learn'—does appear quite often (e.g. Romans 16:17; Philippians 4:9, 11; Colossians 1:5-7; Titus 3:14). We will look at one of these 'learn' passages now:

Read Ephesians 4:17-5:14 – learning Christ

2. What is the condition of those who have not learned Christ?

3. What happens to the minds and actions of those who learn Christ?

4. What is God's ultimate goal for our transformation? (cf. Gen 1:26-27)

Read Ephesians 4:25-32.

5. When we learn Christ, what must change in our relationships with others?

6. What motivations should drive us to change?

Read Ephesians 5:1-14.

7. What will our lives look like if we "walk in love" (v. 2)?

8. What will we change in our lives if we "walk as children of light" (v. 8)?

9. In what ways will we be out of step with the world as we live this way?

10. Why is Christ's sacrifice for us the motivation for such change?

Implications

10. In what areas are you still living as if in darkness?

11. It is hard to change old habits. But God has given us what we need! Think personally about these questions to evaluate your progress as a learner of Christ, and (if necessary) make some fresh plans and commitments:

- How much time do I spend each day doing things like reading blogs, websites, newspapers and magazines, Facebook, watching TV etc.?
- How much time do I spend each day reading and mulling over God's word and praying for myself and for others?
- What can I do to learn more from sermons—both in my understanding and in my practice?

12. How will the realities about Christ and what he has done motivate you and help you to change your way of life?

A reminder to RSVP for Everyday Evangelism, so we can get numbers for purchasing books. The cost is a mere \$10! Bible study groups won't run in those weeks.