

## The Biblical Definition of a Disciple

Our goal is to develop multiplying disciples who...

- **Love Jesus supremely** (Luke 9:57-62, 10:25-29, 14:26) - Jesus has no rivals when it comes to the disciple's love and affections. In the heart of a disciple Jesus is absolutely preeminent. Disciples who love Jesus supremely are characterized by:
  - *Understanding* (Matthew 13, 16:1-12, 17:1-13; Mark 4:1-25; Luke 8:4-18) - A disciple has a divinely-revealed understanding that Jesus is Lord, as well as a growing understanding of the implications of His Lordship.
  - *Obedience* (Matthew 5:3-8, 6:1-6, 7:13-27, 23; John 8:31) - A disciple submits to the teaching of Jesus completely, thereby expressing His exclusive love and loyalty.
  - *Dependence* (Matthew 6:5-15, 7:7-12; Mark 11:20-26; Luke 11:1-13, 18:1-8) - A disciple depends on Jesus wholly, which is best evidenced in desperate prayer.
- **Love each other humbly** (Matthew 18:1-9, 20:20-28; Mark 8:33-37, 42-48, 10:32-45, John 13:31-35, 15:1-17, 17:11, 20-26; 1 John 2:9-11, 3:14-18, 23, 4:7-21) - Disciples relate together in Christ-like humility by continually putting others ahead of themselves and genuinely caring for each others needs. In summary, disciples express their love through humble community and service to one another.
  - *Humble Community* is characterized by:
    - *Selflessness*: Selflessly putting the needs of others ahead of our own. (Philippians 2:3-4; Romans 12:9-13; Ephesians 4:1-6, 25-32)
    - *Acceptance*: Humbly accepting one another no matter who they are. (Romans 12:3, 16; 15:7; 1 Corinthians 12:14-24; James 2:1-7)
    - *Genuine Empathy*: Sharing each other's joys and bearing each other's burdens. (1 Corinthians 12:25-26; 2 Corinthians 2:3; Galatians 6:2)
    - *Unity*: Maintaining unity in our relationships with one another. (Matthew 5:9, 21-26, 31-32, 18:21-35; Luke 10:25-29, 17:1-10; Romans 12:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4-6; Philippians 1:27; Colossians 3:5-17)
    - *Irreproachable Purity*: Maintaining purity in our relationships with one another. (1 Corinthians 6; Ephesians 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 5)

- *Encouragement*: Encouraging and spurring one another on to love and good deeds. (Hebrews 3:12-14, 10:24-25)
  - *Honorable Deference*: Humbly deferring our preferences if others find them offensive. (Romans 14; 1 Corinthians 8-9)
  - *Biblical Confrontation*: Humbly and gently confronting one another and receiving correction from one another in accordance to Scripture. (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:14)
- *Humble Service* is characterized by:
- *Sacrificial Giving*: A disciple sacrificially gives and takes care of the needs of others. As the Bible commands disciples sacrificially give to...
    - ...those taking the gospel to others. (Philippians 4:10-19; 2 Corinthians 11:7-11; Romans 15:24-27)
    - ...believers who are persecuted or imprisoned for their faith. (Hebrews 10:32-34, 13:3; Matthew 25:31-45; Philippians 2:25-30)
    - ...widows who are in need. (James 1:27)
    - ...orphans. (James 1:27)
    - ...the poor. (Ephesians 4:28; Romans 12:13; Acts 2:43-45, 4:32-37, 11:27-30; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 2:10; 1 John 3:16-18)
    - ...those who led us spiritually. (1 Corinthians 9:9,14; Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 2 Timothy 2:6; Luke 10:7)
  - *Exercising Spiritual Gifts*: A disciple strives to identify and exercise their spiritual gift to serve and edify the body. (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-11, 28; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:10-11)
  - **Love the world sacrificially** - Disciples have been sent by Jesus on a mission to make disciples both locally and globally (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8, 8:1-4, 11:19-21). They risk everything and abandon all for the sake of this mission (Matthew 5:10-16, 10:1-42, 16:24; Mark 6:7-13, 8:34; Luke 9:23-27, 10:1-12, 12:1-12, 14:27; John 20:19-23). A disciple who loves the world sacrificially is characterized by three primary characteristics:

- *Sacrificial Living*: A disciple gladly sacrifices his life and resources for the sake of urgent spiritual and physical needs throughout the world. He is free from living for the treasures of this world, because he has a far surpassing treasure that awaits him in the world to come (Matthew 10:1-42).
- *Gospel Proclamation*: A disciple faithfully and winsomely proclaims the gospel to those lost and apart from Christ.
- *Faithful Endurance*: As disciples seek to love the world sacrificially they are confronted with the possibilities of threats, sufferings or persecutions. True disciples are marked by courage and perseverance and through the enabling power of the Spirit are able to faithfully endure even the most difficult of gospel-ministry situations.