



Disciple Defined

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me” – John 14:1

We live in a world of definitions. Everything must be defined. Remember your crazy cousin who was off the wall all the time? It's ADHD. Remember your uncle that seemed to be in another world? It's Alzheimer's. Now I don't mean to make fun of these but only to prove what I said. We want definitions for everything. Science, Psychology, T.V. everything.

So let's walk out a little on the “truth branch.” What is a definition of a disciple? What does one look like? If you asked 20 theologians, you probably get at least 30 definitions. Some would be broad in their coverage. Others more specific to the person and subjective. But how do we define a disciple? While I know I don't have the room and you don't have the time for a thorough defining, here are some faithful foundation stones upon which to build your definitions.

Obedience. If you do not choose to obey God then all the things you do in the name of discipleship are moot. I'll go even farther; it's worse. How? Because you become the object lesson for why so many don't want to become a disciple. They hear you but don't see it matching your actions. Jesus said, “If you love Me, you'll keep My commandments.” That is where discipleship begins.

Love. 1 Corinthians 13 says that you can use your God-given talents to their fullest, but without love you are “nothing.” Hear that? Zero. Non-existent. NOTHING. Everything and everyone we see was made and is loved by God through Jesus. Who are we, as followers (disciples), to think we don't have to? 1 John 4 says you “CAN'T” love God and hate others. So to be a disciple, it MUST spring from love also.

Service. A church sign I saw when I was in school said, “Not faith without works. Not faith with works. A faith THAT works.” Could you show someone the way to Christ if your mouth was glued shut? Yes! By lowering yourself to become like a servant. Isn't that what Jesus did in the upper room? And He said it was an example for us to follow. To be people of service. God's service. That's right. Sitting on a pew and “amen-ing” doesn't make you a disciple.

Invitation. Jesus was always inviting people to experience life as The Father had established. To “come to Me...” to be “drawn to Me...” Our life as a disciple of Jesus is to always invite people to Him. It isn't nice for niceness sake. It's a life wrapped in Jesus that brings life to everyone He brings around us. So invite, not demand. Invite, not curse. Invite them to Jesus where they can find peace, His peace.

Obedience. Love. Service. Invitation. Now go be a disciple.

From My Heart,

Billy