

What is a Disciple?

A disciple is someone who responds in faith to the gracious call to follow Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. In obedience, this person grows into the character of Christ, and uses their gifts, abilities, and treasures to carry out His command to make disciples, becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ.

I. Discovering the Biblical Jesus

The first step in becoming a disciple of Jesus is discovering who Jesus of the Bible is. The Bible says that Jesus made the claim to be God (**John 5:17-18**), was the giver of new life (**John 5:24**), and is the source of eternal life (**John 5:26**). Jesus extends the invitation to everyone to discover who He is (**John 1:29**).

II. Connecting to Jesus Christ and His Church

In faith we trust Jesus claims as God, the giver of new life, and as the one who calls us to eternal life (**John 1:43**). We agree with Him that sin has separated us from God, that His sacrifice on the cross was for our salvation, and we ask Him to be Savior and Lord of our life (**Romans 10:9**). Jesus tells us that water baptism is to be our public profession of faith in Him (**Matthew 28:19**). This public profession of faith connects us to fellow believers (disciples of Jesus), and we join with them in worship of Jesus (**Hebrews 10:23-25**).

III. Growing in our faith

Jesus happily receives us just where we are when we meet Him. But, He does not leave us there. We are to grow up in Him through the practice of spiritual disciplines. This process involves leaving our old habits and moving to a new life under His direction through the Holy Spirit. Through the study of God's Word, prayer, worship, fellowshiping with other believers, and serving Him, the Holy Spirit directs us into this new life of taking on the character of Christ (**Philippians 2:3-12**).

IV. Multiplying our faith

Jesus gives us the honor of serving Him by being a part of His mission to make disciples. We are to use our gifts, abilities, and treasures to serve Him by reaching out to those who do not know Him as Savior and Lord, growing them up in the faith, then equipping and empowering them to become disciple-makers. (**Matthew 4:19 & Matthew 28:19-20**)

In summary, a Disciple of Jesus Christ:

- In faith has committed their life to Jesus as Savior and Lord
- In obedience to His command have been baptized through water immersion
- To grow in their faith, they are committed to practicing spiritual disciplines
- Is involved in disciple-making through the use of their gifts, abilities, and treasure