

Christ's Disciples According To John

Intro: Acts 11:26 ²⁶ And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.” informs us that the disciples were called Christians. This tells us that all Christians are disciples and all disciples are Christians. While the terms do not mean the same thing, they refer to the same people. John in the biography of Christ life gives us a beautiful description of what a disciple of Christ is.

I. ONE WHO CONTINUES IN CHRIST WORD.

A. John 8:31 ³¹ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed.”

B. Our response to the word of God.

1. Desire it:
 - a. Mat. 5:6 ⁶ Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”
 - b. 1 Pet. 2:2 ² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”
2. Study it: 2 Tim. 2:15 ¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
3. Meditate upon it:
 - a. Jos. 1:8 ⁸ This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”
 - b. Psa. 1:2 ² But his delight is in the law of the Lord: and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”
4. Hide it in our heart: Psa. 119:11 ¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”
5. Live according to it:
 - a. Hos. 14:9 ⁹ Who is wise, and he shall understand these, things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them; but the transgressors shall fall therein.”
 - b. Luke 6:46 ⁴⁶ And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”
 - c. Jam. 1:22 ²² But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”
6. Teach it:
 - a. To our children:
 - (1) Deu. 6:6-9 ⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: ⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. ⁸ And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. ⁹ And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.”
 - (2) Eph. 6:4 ⁴ And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
 - b. To others (preaching to lost):
 - c. To each other (edifying the saved):
7. Ezra 7:10 ¹⁰ For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.”

C. What happens when we do not continue in that word.

1. Isa. 5:13 ⁴¹³ Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.”
2. Hos. 4:6 ⁴¹⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”

II. LOVE ONE ANOTHER

A. John 13:34-35 ⁴³⁴ A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. ⁴³⁵ By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

B. We are to love.

1. 1 Pet. 1:22 ⁴²² Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.”
2. Mat. 22:36-40 ⁴³⁶ Master, which is the great commandment in the law? ⁴³⁷ Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ⁴³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ⁴³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. ⁴⁴⁰ On These two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”
3. 1 Cor. 13:

C. We are to love as Christ loved.

1. He gave himself; Eph. 5:2, 25 ⁴⁴² And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.... ⁴²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”
2. Laid down His life.
 - a. John 10:11, 15 ⁴¹⁰ I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.... ⁴¹⁵ As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.”
 - b. 1 John 3:16 ⁴¹⁶ Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

D. Compare the body of Christ

1. 1 Cor. 12:12-13, 23-27 ⁴¹² For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ ⁴¹³ For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.... ⁴²³ And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. ⁴²⁴ For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked; ⁴²⁵ That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. ⁴²⁶ And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. ⁴²⁷ Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”
2. Rom. 12:4-5 ⁴⁴⁴ For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: ⁴⁴⁵ So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.”
3. cf. Eph. 5:29 ⁴²⁹ For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church.”

III. BEAR MUCH FRUIT

A. John 15:8 ⁴⁴⁸ Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”

B. We are to be fruit bearers.

1. Mat. 13:3-23 (parable of the sower) vs. 8, 23 ⁴⁴⁸ But other fell into good ground and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.... ⁴²³ But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

2. Mat. 21:43 ⁴³ "Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."

C. Of what does fruit bearing consist?

1. Rom. 1:13 ¹³ "Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles."
2. Rom. 6:22 ²² "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."
3. Gal. 5:22-23 ²² "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance; against such there is no law."
4. Eph. 5:9 ⁹ "(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)"
5. Phi. 1:11 ¹¹ "Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."
6. 2 Pet. 1:3-11 ³ "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: ⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. ⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; ⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. ⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. ¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: ¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."
7. Col. 1:10 ¹⁰ "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;"

Conclusion: Are you a disciple? Why not become one at this time.