

Lifting Up Jesus

#30

LIVING AS A DISCIPLE

Baptism is just the beginning of your new life as a disciple of Christ. The word ‘Christian’ is mentioned only three times in the New Testament but the word ‘disciple’ is repeated over 260 times. What does it mean to be a disciple? How do you grow as one? In this last lesson, we will explore what the Bible teaches on this very important topic.

1. What did Jesus say qualifies us to be His disciple? John 8:31

Note: We need to acknowledge God’s authority in our life and live in obedience to His word. Whatever the consequences, we are called to receive His word and practice it in our daily life.

2. Is Jesus to be our example in all things? 1 Peter 2:21

3. What was the attitude of Jesus while in this world? John 6:38

4. What is symbolized by being baptized into Christ? Romans 6:3, 4

5. How did Paul explain being “crucified with Christ”? Galatians 2:20

Note: Just as Christ was totally surrendered to His Father, so we must be totally surrendered to Christ. We are to be connected to Jesus as the vine and the branches.

6. How often does death or surrender of self occur for a disciple? Luke 9:23

Note: As we spend time with Jesus each day part of our devotional time should be re-consecrating our lives again to Him. Unless this active act of surrender is done, our “self” will want to make a comeback. This is vital to our connection with Him!

7. What must happen before a kernel of wheat produces many seeds? John 12:23–26

Note: A life living for itself is wasted. Only a life that is given away in service for others can be used by God. He who is absorbed with his own needs and pleasures cannot be a true disciple of God.

8. What are we encouraged to do as we see the “Day” approaching? Hebrews 10:25

9. What are we as disciples all a part of? 1 Corinthians 12:12, 13, 27; Romans 12:4, 5

Note: Just as in a physical body, the head or the brain controls each part so all of us that make up the body of Christ must also be controlled or surrendered to the head, which is Christ.

10. What are we to make every effort to do? Ephesians 4:3–6

11. How many of us receive spiritual gifts from Christ? Ephesians 4:7,8

12. What are some different gifts that are given to us in the body of Christ? Romans 12:6–8

Note: For example, suppose that at a church luncheon, someone spills a glass of water. One who had the gift of prophecy would say, “I told you not to place that water so close to the table”. One with the gift of leadership would begin directing others to go to work. One with the gift of service would grab a mop; a teacher would explain the significance of water in the Bible. An encourager would try to build that person up. The one with the gift of generosity would buy him a new water bottle to use and the one with mercy would show compassion and sit next to the person until they felt better.

13. What is the purpose for these gifts of service in the church? Ephesians 4:11, 12

Note: We all have a role to play in building up God’s church. God has given to each man a special gift to be used according to His ability. It is not God’s will that a few carry all the responsibilities of the church while others have none.

14. What are the three areas that the body of Christ is to be built up into? Ephesians 4:13

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

15. What work is commissioned to all disciples regardless of gifts? Matthew 28:19, 20

Note: Love for souls for whom Christ died means crucifixion of self. He who is a child of God should henceforth look upon himself as a link in the chain let down to save the world, one with Christ in His plan of mercy, going forth with Him to seek and save the lost. The Christian is ever to realize that he has consecrated himself to God, and that in character he is to reveal

Christ to the world. The self-sacrifices, the sympathy, the love, manifested in the life of Christ are to reappear in the life of the worker for God. Desire of Ages p. 417

16. What is the secret of living as a disciple? Hebrews 12:1–3

Note: The secret is to always keep our eyes focused on Christ. We do this by praying to Him, reading His word and co-operating with the Holy Spirit in our lives. One who is losing heart usually is not spending time with Christ alone.

Conclusion: A disciple is one who is surrendered to the Lordship of Christ and leads others under that same Lordship. The priority of a disciple is seeking and serving God. God wants us to serve and encourage one another in the faith and has given each one special spiritual gifts to help build the church up. God wants us to protect the unity of the church for it is through this agency that God works for the salvation of others. As His representative, we are called to love and serve others. There is no higher calling.¹

¹ Lewis, K. A. (2010). *Lifting up Jesus: Bible Study Lessons*. Walla Walla, WA: Karen Ann Lewis.