

What is a Disciple of Christ, John 8:31-32

What is a Disciple of Christ?

- What purpose did God save you for?
 - There is a plan or purpose for everything God does or allows
 - What is his plan and purpose for saving you?
- **Matthew 5:14-16 NCV**, 14 “You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 And people don’t hide a light under a bowl. They put it on a lampstand so the light shines for all the people in the house. 16 In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and will praise your Father in heaven.”
 - Do others consistently see the light of your Heavenly Father in your daily life?

What is a Disciple of Christ?

- Consistent shining for Christ can only happen when we are true, solid disciples of Jesus Christ
 - What have you done this week that nobody, but a Christian disciple would/can do?
- Religion has done a good job of separating salvation and discipleship, but this was not the command Jesus left with us

What is a Disciple of Christ?

- **Matthew 28:18 NIV**, 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
 - This is not new information Jesus is giving us, He always had all authority in heaven and on earth
 - They were His from the beginning because He created and sustains all of creation
 - **John 1:3 NCV**, 3 All things were made by him, and nothing was made without him.

What is a Disciple of Christ?

- **Matthew 28:18 NIV**, 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
 - **Hebrews 1:3 NCV**, The Son reflects the glory of God and shows exactly what God is like. He holds everything together with his powerful word.
 - Noah and flood, Satan restricted in Job, Nation of Israel in Egypt, Jesus calming the storm with just His word, Jesus healing demon possession, His compassion and love for the ruined

What is a Disciple of Christ?

- **Matthew 28:18 NIV**, 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
 - What is new is Jesus demonstrating His authority and power by overcoming, conquering, triumphing over death, hell, and the grave evidenced by rising from the dead leaving the empty tomb as proof

What is a Disciple of Christ?

- **Matthew 28:19a** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
 - Jesus is already speaking to His disciples
 - He is speaking to you and me, “Become yourself a disciple of Jesus Christ”
 - Religion has done a good job of separating salvation and discipleship, but this was never in God’s plan for the saved
 - Because of Jesus’ great love and sacrifice for you, live your life for Him
 - Learn and apply the life of Jesus to your life under the guidance of Scripture and the Holy Spirit

What is a Disciple of Christ?

- **Matthew 28:19b** Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
 - Let those who follow know with certainty where they now fit
 - The plan of the Father, the provision of the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit
 - Let those who follow know with certainty who they are in Christ Jesus

What is a Disciple of Christ?

- **Matthew 28:20a** And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
 - Let them know how to live a blessed life by teaching them about Jesus, His Character, Words, Life
- **Matthew 28:20b** And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
 - Let them know they will never be alone in their walk with me as a disciple, never without hope, cast down

What is a Disciple of Christ?

- People are still seeking the answer to the question, “What is the point of life and how does Jesus fit in?”
 - People have always asked questions like this in various ways: Why am I here? What is God’s purpose for my life? Where is my life going? How does it all end?
 - Questions like these can only be answered by disciples of Jesus Christ

Scripture

- **John 8:31-32 NIV**, 31 To the Jews who had believed him (*or were following him*), Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
 - **MSG, 31-32** Then Jesus turned to the Jews who had claimed to believe in him. “If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure. Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, and the truth will free you.”

What is a Disciple of Christ?

- We see in previous verses a vast group of people following Jesus
 - They believed some things about Him
 - They liked His teaching and how He stood up to the religious leaders
 - They liked the excitement surrounding Jesus
 - They might have claimed to be His disciples

What is a Disciple of Christ?

- Jesus knowing their hearts began separating them from their assumptions about being Jewish and salvation
 - **John 8:33-34 NIV**, 33 They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” 34 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.”
 - The 12 disciples probably did not have a much different opinion than the crowd

What is a Disciple of Christ?

- **John 5:66-68 NCV**, 66-68 After this, many of his disciples left. They no longer wanted to be associated with him. Then Jesus gave the Twelve their chance: “Do you also want to leave?” Peter replied, “Master, to whom would we go? You have the words of real life, eternal life. We’ve already committed ourselves, confident that you are the Holy One of God.”
 - So, how would you define discipleship from our main verses?

One who learns and hold tightly to the teachings and life of Jesus

- Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.”
(NIV)
 - “Stick with it” **(MSG)**
- We must understand that the teachings of Jesus are contrary to the way the world operates, what it thinks is fair and right, how I need to respond
 - We are in the world but not of or belong to the world system of living

One who learns and hold tightly to the teachings and life of Jesus

- The Jewish thinking then was, “I am of the seed of Abraham, so I am automatically in the Kingdom of God. I am not a slave to sin.”
 - Here comes Jesus giving them a truth statement, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.”
 - They have only two options
 - Continue living and believing what was falsely taught
 - Hold to the words of Jesus closely, even when my old nature attacks them as false, even if it is not something I want to hear until we grasp what Jesus is saying and accept it as truth that apart from Him, I am a slave to my sin

One who learns and hold tightly to the teachings and life of Jesus

- Jesus' words and life cannot change you if you don't know what they are
 - Any smooth-talking charlatan can come into your life leading you away from Jesus with human logic and new and shiny
 - **Matthew 11:28-29 NIV**, 28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

One who holds tightly to the teachings of Jesus and the life example He left behind

- Jesus said, “If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure.” **(MSG)**
 - “If you hold to my teaching **(NIV)**
- What does the word hold mean?
 - Reach out, grasp it so it doesn’t get away
 - Biblical meaning then is to bring it close to observe leading to understanding
 - Biblical meaning is to install it in the place where your decisions are made

One who holds tightly to the teachings of Jesus and the life example He left behind

- In a master/student relationship there are some things that must be present before understanding can come
 - We must believe that person knows more about the subject that I do and I want to learn it
 - There will be times I will not have a clue what they are teaching
 - We must believe they long for me to understand and apply
 - We must believe that I will ultimately grasp and apply their teachings if I do not give up and walk away

One who holds tightly to the teachings of Jesus and the life example He left behind

- What can we expect from applying Jesus' teachings?
 - **2nd Corinthians 3:17-18 NIV**, 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate (*reflect*) the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

One who allows the teachings and examples of Jesus to transform how they view and respond to their life

- Biblical transformation = In theology, to change the natural disposition and temper of man from a state of enmity to God and his law, into the image of God, or into a disposition and temper conformed to the will of God
 - **Romans 12:2 NCV**, Do not be shaped by this world; instead be changed within by a new way of thinking. Then you will be able to decide what God wants for you; you will know what is good and pleasing to him and what is perfect.

One who allows the teachings and examples of Jesus to transform how they view and respond to their life

- The news of the day can transform the way you process life
 - The events of the day will present several alternative ways for you to process them
 - **Job 2:4 NIV**, “Skin for skin!” Satan replied. “A man will give all he has for his own life.”
 - Your old nature of sin can lie to you in processing it
 - Scripture says, “Let the word of God change the way you process things, live in this sinful world.”

We must allow the truth of Jesus' words to set us free from our false assumptions of life

- “Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, and the truth will free you.” **(MSG)**
 - We must allow ourselves to experience the truth of Jesus
 - The ultimate plan and purpose of a disciple of Jesus is freedom
 - Freedom to be all He has created us to be, what we were created for
 - Freedom from the expectations of others
 - Freedom from fear and dread, hopelessness, despair, loneliness, guilt, shame, condemnation by God, if only of live

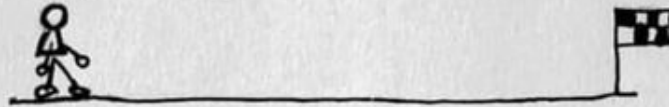
We must allow the truth of Jesus' words to set us free from our false assumptions of life

- Even with the assurance of forgiveness we can still live enslaved by past, failures, experiences, words of others
 - Until we set our eyes upon Jesus
 - Until we learn from/of Him and see how He lived
 - Until we learn to simply take Him at His word and be free
- **Galatians 5:1 NIV**, It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

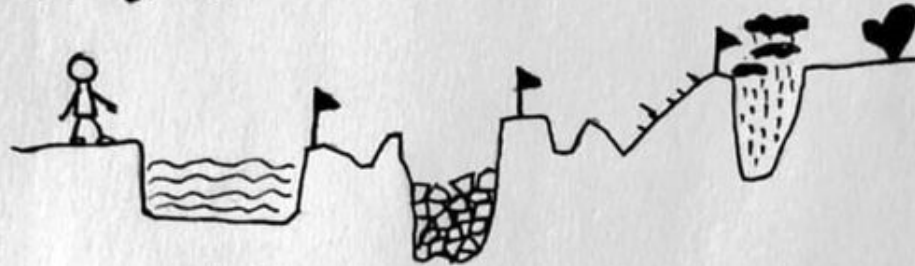
What is a Disciple of Christ?

- Even if I do not have all the answers, I know Jesus does and in this I will rest
 - He has promised to lead me into all truth and His plan for my life
 - He has promised to present me faultless before God the Father with great joy
 - In this I will trust
 - In this I will rest
- A better question, are you a disciple of Christ?

My Plan :



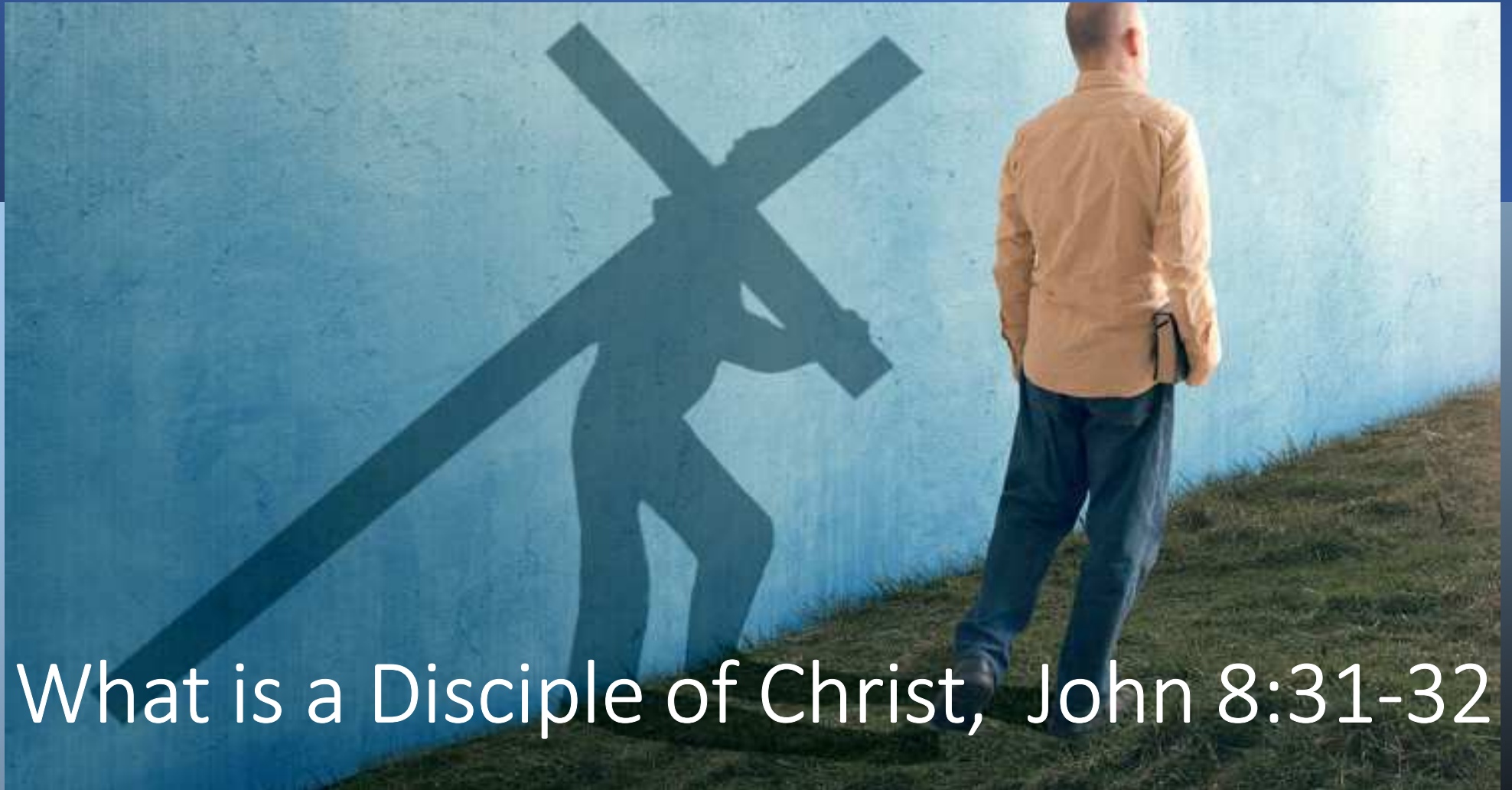
God's Plan :



Sometimes God doesn't
do things the way
we think he should.
But God has a perfect plan
for your life.

Trust God! ~Amen~





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