

Who is a true disciple of Christ?

1. Christ requires that true disciples answer the call to discipleship which is the Great Commission itself: “*make disciples*” (Mt 28:18-20).
2. Christ requires that true disciples count the cost of discipleship as set forth by our Savior (Lu 14:25-35).
3. Christ requires that His disciples have a supreme love for Him (Lu 14:26).
4. Christ requires that true disciples take up the cross daily in self-denial (Mt 16:24).
5. Christ requires that His disciples spend their lives following Him so that their lives are conformed to the will of the Father (Jn 12:24-26; 14:21-23).
6. Christ requires that His disciples have a fervent love for all who belong to Him (Jn 13:34-35; 1 Jn 4:7-8).
7. Christ requires that His disciples continue in His Word in obedience (Jn 8:31; Lu 6:46-48).
8. Christ requires that His disciples forsake all to follow Him (no rivals) (Lu 14:33).

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1) When Christ purchased our salvation by His blood, He also purchased every true believer for Himself (1 Cor 6:20). Discuss the fact that a Christ-follower lives as the Lord's possession, presenting the members of his body back to God each day as his true Owner (Rom 6:11-13, 12:1-3ff.).

2) Discuss the fact that a true disciple of Christ has counted the cost of being His disciple (Lu 14:25-35).

3) A true Christ-follower lives to be conformed to the likeness of Christ, his Head. Discuss why this conformity can't occur without self-denial? (HINT: self-denial is complete submission to Christ).

4) A true disciple is known by his fervent love for Christ, and for believers. This love is much more than a feeling (see Mt 10:37-39; Jn 13:34-35; 1 Jn 4:7-8). How do these texts say that this love is expressed?

5) To follow Christ is to follow Him in obedience to His Word. Our Lord has stated that a true disciple continues in Christ's Word. How is this described in Luke 6:47-48 and John 8:31?

6) Jesus indicates that a Christ-follower will be a 'fisher of men' (Mt 4:19). Is it possible to be a genuine disciple of Christ, but not committed to evangelism? Christ divides people into two categories: those who *gather with Him*, and those who *scatter from Him* (Lu 11:23). How do these texts relate to discipleship?

7) Our Lord states that reproach and rejection meant for Him will fall upon His true disciples (Mt 10:16-23, 33; Lu 9:23-26; Jn 15:18-16:3). Discuss how a true disciple is prepared to face this kind of rejection.