

# Disciple of Christ

## I. Introduction

- A. Among the terms Scripture uses to describe a Christian is the phrase “disciple of Christ.” **Acts 11:26**
- B. Consider some things Scripture teaches related to this term and what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus.

## II. Dedicated Learner

- A. The core meaning of the word translated disciple is “pupil” or “learner” (see *Strong G3101 & Thayer*). One who is a true disciple of Jesus *learns* from Him. **Luke 8:9; 11:1**
- B. The level of dedication needed to be continuously learning from Christ requires a strong spiritual appetite. The faithful disciple has an interest in Christ that leads to persistent growth in one’s knowledge of Him. **Matthew 5:6**

## III. Devoted Follower

- A. While learning from Christ is crucial, Jesus taught that His true disciples not only learn from Him, but also *abide* in His Word. **John 8:31-32**
- B. By abiding in His Word, the true disciple becomes continuously more *like Christ*. To be Christ’s faithful disciples, we must adopt His character, value system, etc. as our own. **Luke 6:40; John 13:13-15**
- C. Following Christ’s lead also involves following Him into persecutions that inevitably result when one chooses to do what is right. Just as the Teacher faced mistreatment, His disciples should expect the same. **Matthew 10:24-25**

## IV. Loyal Servant

- A. While persecutions are inevitable for those who follow Christ’s lead, the faithful disciple is willing to accept whatever hardships result from the choice to be like Him. Christ’s true disciples practice “daily” self-denial, just as He did. **Luke 9:23**
- B. Jesus demands that we be willing to deny ourselves of *anything* that stands between us and Him. If we do not have this level of loyalty to Him, He teaches that we cannot be His disciple. **Luke 14:26-27, 33**

## V. Loving Fruit-bearer

- A. The one who dedicates him or herself to Christ’s teachings in this way will bear fruit that shows his or her allegiance to Christ. For instance, as love is a primary characteristic of Jesus, the true disciple of Jesus will bear the fruit of love. **John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:16-18**
- B. We must each abide in Jesus so as to bear fruit that glorifies God. This is what the faithful disciple does. **John 15:8; Galatians 5:22-23**

## VI. Conclusion

- A. The term “disciple of Christ” helps shed light on who the Christian is. Jesus has done His part as the perfect Teacher and Master. It is up to each of us to learn from Him, devote ourselves fully to His teachings, and be a true disciple of Christ.