



WE ARE DISCIPLES

What It Means to Follow Jesus
Rick Warren

"As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. 'Follow me and be my disciple,' Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him." Matthew 9:9 (NLT)

TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS I MUST . . .

1. "If [they] want to be my disciples, tell them to come and follow me, for my servants must be where I am. And if they follow me, the Father will honor them."
John 12:26 (NLT)

"The plan was that they would be with him, and he would send them out to proclaim the Word." Mark 3:14 (MSG)

2. "Anyone who wants to be my follower must love me far more than he does his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, or sisters—yes, more than his own life—otherwise he cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:26 (TLB)
- "The most important commandment is this: . . . You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength."
Mark 12:29-30 (NLT)

3. "If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples." John 13:35 (GNT)

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters." 1 John 3:16 (NIV)

4. "If you continue to obey my teaching, you are truly my followers. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." John 8:31-32 (NCV)

"If you live in me and what I say lives in you, then ask for anything you want, and it will be yours. You give glory to my Father when you produce a lot of fruit and therefore show that you are my disciples." John 15:7-8 (GW)

5. "Whoever wants to be the most important person must take the last place and be a servant to everyone else." Mark 9:35 (GW)

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28 (NLT)

"If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24 (TLB)

6. "Jesus called out to them, 'Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!' And they left their nets at once and followed him." Matthew 4:20 (NLT)

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

"Those who want to save their lives will give up true life. But those who give up their lives for me and for the Good News will have true life." Mark 8:35 (NCV)

Next Steps

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WE ARE AMBASSADORS

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"We are Christ's ambassadors." 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT)

MY ROLE AS AN AMBASSADOR

1.

"Be sure that you live in a way that brings honor to the Good News of Christ."
Philippians 1:27 (NCV)

"Live a life worthy of the calling you have received." Ephesians 4:1 (NIV)

2.

"I don't care about my own life. The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me—to tell people the Good News about God's grace." Acts 20:24 (NCV)

3.

"Jesus . . . said to them, 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always.'"
Matthew 28:18-20 (GNT)

4.

"If you call God your Father, live your time as temporary residents on earth."
1 Peter 1:17 (GW)

"They think only about this life here on earth. But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives." Philippians 3:19-20 (NLT)

MY RESPONSIBILITIES

1.

"People who do not believe are living all around you and might say that you are doing wrong. Live such good lives that they will see the good things you do and will give glory to God." 1 Peter 2:12 (NCV)

2.

"Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come. All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also. Our message is that God was making all human beings his friends through Christ. God did not keep an account of their sins, and he has given us the message which tells how he makes them his friends." 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 (GNT)

"God was in Christ, making peace between the world and himself. In Christ, God did not hold the world guilty of its sins. And he gave us this message of peace. So we have been sent to speak for Christ. It is as if God is calling to you through us. We speak for Christ when we beg you to be at peace with God. Christ had no sin, but God made him become sin so that in Christ we could become right with God. We are workers together with God." 2 Corinthians 5:19-6:1 (NCV)

3.

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"We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too." 1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NLT)
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"Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, but do it with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15-16 (GNT)
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"Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. I do this to get the Gospel to them and also for the blessing I myself receive when I see them come to Christ." 1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (TLB)

MY REWARD

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people. Remember that the Lord will give you as a reward what he has kept for his people. For Christ is the real Master you serve."
Colossians 3:23-24 (GNT)

Next Step

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WE ARE MEMBERS OF GOD'S FAMILY

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"In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12:5 (NIV)

"Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

1. THE GROWTH OF THE 1st CHURCH (JERUSALEM)

- Acts 1:15 (NLT) "120 believers"
- Acts 2:41 (NCV) "Three thousand people were added to the number of believers that day."
- Acts 2:47 (NIV) "The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."
- Acts 4:4 (NIV) "The number of men who believed grew to about five thousand."
- Acts 5:14 (ESV) "More than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women."
- Acts 5:28 (NIV) "You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching."
- Acts 6:1 (NLT) "The believers rapidly multiplied."
- Acts 6:7 (NIV) "The number of disciples . . . increased rapidly."
- Acts 21:20 (CEV) "Tens of thousands of our people have become followers!"

2. WHERE DID THEY MEET?

(They met) "day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house." Acts 5:42 (NIV)

- **LARGE GROUP** _____
"They continued to meet daily in the temple courts." Acts 2:46 (BSB)
- **SMALL GROUP** _____
"Greet the church that meets in their home." Romans 16:5 (NLT)

ADVANTAGES: Homes are . . .

- _____
- _____
- _____

7 MARKS OF A HEALTHY GROUP: ACTS 2:42-47

1. _____
"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching." Acts 2:42 (NIV)
2. _____
"They devoted themselves . . . to fellowship." Acts 2:42 (NIV)
"They . . . ate together with glad and sincere hearts." Acts 2:46 (NIV)
3. _____
"[They] devoted themselves . . . to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper)." Acts 2:42 (NLT)
4. _____
"[They] devoted themselves . . . to prayer." Acts 2:42 (NIV)
5. _____
"They shared with anyone who was in need." Acts 2:45 (BSB)
6. _____
"[They were] praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people." Acts 2:47 (NIV)
7. _____
"The Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." Acts 2:47 (ESV)

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