

21st Century Disciples

What would we do if we neglected a new born baby here in our nation?

What should happen once a person makes a decision to make Jesus the Lord of their life?

When a person becomes a Christian they should look for guidance to learn about their new walk with God.

When a person is born again they are considered a new born regardless of their age, education or wealth.

1 Peter 2:2 (NIV)

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation...

Spiritual life is free but spiritual maturity takes time and effort on everyone's part.

Your spiritual life will send you on a journey seeking a new culture and environment for daily living.

This journey towards spiritual maturity is called discipleship.

A disciple is defined as someone who is under the influence, teaching and training of another.

What has the greatest influence in your life?

- The need for money?
- The culture you live in?
- Your family?
- God's written word?

One of the last commandments Jesus gave to His disciples before ascending into heaven was that they continue making more disciples.

Matthew 28:19-20 (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. [20] 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.”

Is the call to be a disciple in the 21st century any less than the call Jesus made when He walked the earth?

Some disciples will become equippers in the family of God while others will shine brightly in the world they are living.

The greatest responsibility of the local church is to see those who have faith in Jesus Christ grow into true disciples of Jesus Christ.

Discipleship includes

- Faith in Jesus Christ
- Believer’s Baptism
- Regular worship / word
- Growing in Christ
- Practicing servant-hood
- Sharing the gospel

Biblical characteristics of true disciples of Jesus Christ

#1

Disciples of Jesus Christ have an inner peace through faith in His presence and provision...

...Others in this world lack this peace.

John 14:27 (NLT)

“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn’t like the peace the world gives. So don’t be troubled or afraid.

John 16:33 (NLT)

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

#2

Disciples put God first

Mark 8:34 (NLT)

Then he called his disciples and the crowds to come over and listen. “If any of you wants to be my follower,” he told them, “you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me.

#3

Disciples are not perfect

they continue to grow from the old way of living into the power of their new life in Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask?

Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)

[2] Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.

#4

Disciples are honest with God and each other about their struggles with sin.

1 John 2:1 (NLT)

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if you do sin, there is someone to plead for you before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who pleases God completely.

Galatians 6:1 (NLT)

Dear brothers and sisters, if another Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

#5

Disciples learn that they are stewards of their life, time, and resources.

Acts 4:32 (NLT)

All the believers were of one heart and mind, and they felt that what they owned was not their own; they shared everything they had.

#6

Disciples are called to serve others through spiritual and natural expression.

Matthew 10:1 (NLT)

Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness.

Matthew 15:36 (NLT)

Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, thanked God for them, broke them into pieces, and gave them to the disciples, who distributed the food to the crowd.

#7

Disciples are called to spend time with Jesus every day with a heart of submission and worship.

Matthew 28:9 (NLT)

[9] And as they went, Jesus met them. “Greetings!” he said. And they ran to him, held his feet, and worshiped him.

#8

Disciples bring others to Jesus

John 1:40-41 (NLT)

Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of these men who had heard what John said and then followed Jesus. [41] The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother, Simon, and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means the Christ).

#9

Disciples obey the teachings of Jesus

John 8:31 (NLT)

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you keep obeying my teachings.

#10

Disciples show true love

John 13:35 (NLT)

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

#11

Disciples’ lives honor God

John 15:8 (NLT)

My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings great glory to my Father.

#12

Disciples are filled with joy and the Holy Spirit

Acts 13:52 (KJV)

And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.