"Christian Discipleship"
Basic Christianity
Class 14

Tonight's Topic: Christian Discipleship – An Overview

Christianity teaches that Jesus is worthy of our worship, faith, commitment, loyalty, and following. Christianity also teaches that to have saving faith in Jesus Christ means that a person through faith accepts Jesus Christ as God and Lord of life. This is the natural, normal, and necessary understanding of what it means to have faith in Christ. The person who comes to Jesus Christ in saving faith accepts the responsibility to worship Jesus and obey Jesus Christ. Further, this person submits to the shepherdly providence and care of Jesus Christ. This is a lifetime commitment and experience.

Scripture on Christian Discipleship

- The Disciples' **Call**: Follow Christ
  - Matthew 4:19-20 "He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men. Immediately they left their nets and followed Him."
  - Matthew 9:9 (Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27) "As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew sitting in the tax collector's office; and He said to him, 'Follow Me!' And He got up and followed Him."
  - John 1:43 "The next day He decided to go to Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, 'Follow Me'."
  - John 12:26 "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me."

- The **Requirement** of Discipleship:
  - Matthew 16:24 "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me."
  - Mark 8:34 "He summoned the crowd together with His disciples, and said to them, 'If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me."
  - Luke 9:23 "And He was saying to them all, 'If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me." (vss. 24-25)
  - Luke 14:26-27 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."
  - John 8:31 "So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you continue in My word, then you are truly My disciples."
  - John 21:22 "Jesus said to him, 'If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to you? Follow Me."

- The **Task** of Making Disciples:
  - Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations"
  - 2 Timothy 2:2 "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful people who will be able to teach others also."

Taking Up the Cross and Follow Jesus

To take up the cross and follow Jesus means to live out the crucified life that we have in Christ as a result of our salvation. This includes denying pride, humbling ourselves, living a life of love for

Jesus and others, seeking God's will for our lives, prayer, worship, and investing ourselves in the kingdom of God. This also includes resisting temptation and refusing to measure our lives and success by worldly standards. Paul sums this up in the expressions of putting off the old self and putting on the new self. This is a constant challenge all through our lives. There are **FOUR MAIN CATEGORIES OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP** (summing up discipleship into categories)

1. Continuing faith in Christ (Colossians 2:6-7)
2. Loyalty to Christ and Obedience to His teaching (Luke 6:46; Matthew 7:21)
3. Worshiping Christ (Matthew 2:20)
4. Preaching Christ to others (Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 1:23; 2:2; Colossians 1:28) of Christian Discipleship

Review of Christian Discipleship

1. The **Definition** of Christian Discipleship
    1) Necessary outward manifestation of inward regeneration
    2) Life that applies the life of Christ and the truth of Scripture
    3) Discipleship involves learning from and following Christ
        (1) Learning from Christ
        (2) Following after Christ

2. The **Characterization** of Christian Discipleship
    1) Doctrinal
        (1) Biblical beliefs
        (2) Doctrinal beliefs
        (3) Primary beliefs

    2) Moral
        (1) Purity of life
        (2) Obedience to Christ
        (3) Application of biblical truth
        (4) Pursuit of divine pleasure

    3) Personal (development in character, growth, relationship with God)
        (1) Process
        (2) Messy and imperfect
        (3) Sanctification
        (4) Forward moving
        (5) Security
        (6) Holy soul-satisfying joy in Christ

    4) Christological
        (1) Focused on Christ
        (2) Worshiping Christ
        (3) Depending on Christ
        (4) Seeking the glory of Christ
        (5) Following in the footsteps of Christ

SPECIFIC Key Aspects of Christian Discipleship: "Pastor, how can I live the Christian life?"

If one is to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ, there are some vital aspects of discipleship that must be understood. Here is a list of fourteen different aspects of Christian discipleship, experienced by true Christians. This list can serve as a guideline to different aspects we will engage as disciples. This list serves as my answer to the question, "Pastor, how can I love the Christian life?"

1. Discipleship and the mind (Philippians 4:8)
2. Discipleship and the affections of the heart (Matthew 22:37)
3. Discipleship and cultural context (Colossians 3:1-3; 1 John 2:15)
4. Discipleship and church (Matthew 16:18)
5. Discipleship and the struggle with sin (Hebrews 12:1)
6. Discipleship and the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15)
7. Discipleship and prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)
8. Discipleship and worship (John 4:23-24)
9. Discipleship and growth (2 Peter 3:18)
10. Discipleship and faith (Hebrews 11:6)
11. Discipleship and courage (Ephesians 6:10)
12. Discipleship and commitment (Acts 4:19-20)
13. Discipleship and the will (Joshua 24:15)
14. Discipleship and the Lordship of Christ (Romans 10:9)

Conclusion:

The Christian faith and Christian salvation must never be considered or understood apart from Christian discipleship. The task of the church involves the proclamation of Christ for the salvation of souls, resulting in true life discipleship. Any attempt to separate Christian conversion from a life of discipleship is to gut the gospel of its true impact. Thus, Christian discipleship, understood in a biblical context, is fundamental and necessary for understanding BASIC CHRISTIANITY.