

Disciples Indeed

John 8:31,32

Introduction:

- A. "Disciple" is primarily a learner or trainee.
 - 1. From "MATHETES"—"root MATH —, indicating thought accompanied by endeavor"—Vine. (To learn, to understand)
 - 2. One who learns and adheres to the teaching of another (cf. Matt. 9:14, 22:16; John 9:28)
- B. "Disciples" of Christ used in narrow and broad sense.
 - 1. The twelve – most common usage before Pentecost (Matt. 10:1; 11:1; 12:1).
 - 2. Other adherents. (John 6:66; Luke 6:17; John 19:38).
 - 3. All followers after Pentecost. (Acts 6:1-7; 9:1, 10, 19, 25, 26, 38; 11:26 (Isa 62.2) Acts 11:29)
- C. "Disciples indeed"
 - 1. Rather than merely in name and claim.
 - 2. Have certain credentials:

Discussion:

II. Baptism (Matt. 28:19-20).

- A. Note the construction of the commission.
- B. Involves faith and repentance. (Mark 16:15,16; Luke 24:47).
- C. Disciples at Jerusalem had been baptized. (Acts 2:38,41,47;6:1).
- D. Paul, a disciple, had been baptized. (Acts 9:26, 18).

III. Total Commitment (Luke 14:26,27;33).

- A. Unconditional surrender to Christ (Lk. 9:57-62; 14:19 excuses)
- B. Not the "total commitment" of Crossroads / "discipling" movement.
 - 1. Theirs is total commitment to system with its personnel.
 - 2. Theirs is a perversion of "forsaking all".
- C. Not half-hearted commitment of service/sacrifice at our convenience.
 - 1. Some want to become Christians at their convenience. (Acts 24:25).
 - 2. Some want to worship at their convenience - especially the Lord's supper.
 - a. It is to be upon first day of the week. (Acts 20:7).
 - b. It is to be done when whole church is assembled to eat. (1 Cor. 11:17-22; 33).

Note: Two abuses (1) private eating (2) turned into common feast.

(1) Day is set by the Lord, time set by each congregation.

(2) Obviously not to be free wheeling each at own convenience supper.

(3) Language necessarily requires that church have a set and understood time — rather than at each man's convenience.

IV. Mutual Love (John 13:35)

- A. Not surface sentimentality.
- B. But, deep commitment to temporal and eternal welfare.
 - 1. Sometimes calls for understanding and patience.
 - 2. Sometimes calls for toughness and firmness.

V. Fruit Bearing (John 15:8).

- A. Early Disciples bore fruit by joining with other disciples. (Acts 9:19,26).
- B. Early Disciples bore fruit by helping other disciples. (Acts 9:23-26, 36; 11:29).
- C. Early Disciples bore fruit by making other disciples. (Acts 14:21).
- D. Early Disciples bore fruit by strengthening other disciples. (Acts 14:22).
- E. Early Disciples bore fruit by worshiping with other disciples. (Acts 20:7).

Conclusion:

- A. What kind of disciple are you? One in name only? One indeed?
- B. Have you been made a disciple?
- C. How committed are you as a disciple?
- D. What kind of fruit are you bearing as a disciple?