

## MARKS OF A DISCIPLE



### I. What is a disciple?

A. From John 8:31-32

1. What is one mark of a disciple?
  
2. What would this practically look like in daily life?

B. From John 13:34-35

1. What is one mark of a disciple?
  
2. What would this practically look like in daily life?

C. From John 15:8

1. What is one mark of a disciple?
  
2. What would this practically look like in daily life?

D. From Luke 14:26-27,33

1. What is one mark of a disciple?
  
2. What would this practically look like in daily life?

### II. Are these marks or traits things that you do or are they things that you are?

A. Define the relationship between “doing” and “being” using the following passages: John 15:4-5 (cross reference: Galatians 5:22-23) and Colossians 1:28-29

As disciples of Christ, our desire is to grow in these areas and help others grow in these areas. The critical question is “how”? How do we grow and how do we build into others?

**Growing and Building**

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:4-13

**I. Growing**

- A. What can we learn from this passage about what is God's part and what is our part in our Christian growth and in the growth of others?
  
- B. What might it mean to “plant” and to “water”?
  
- C. How can the truth in 1 Corinthians 3:7 affect the way you think about yourself and your approach to building into people?

**II. Building**

- A. What is the most critical part to any building project?
  
- B. According to the passage, what must be the building foundation for our lives and others? (cross reference: Matthew 7:24-27)
  
- C. What might it mean to be an “expert builder” and what would you need to become an “expert builder”?

● According to the following passages, what did Paul and Peter think was important for people to grow in and build into others?

- Colossians 1:3-5
- 1 Thessalonians 1:3
- 1 Thessalonians 5:8
- Ephesians 1: 15-18
- Ephesians 3:15-21
- Philippians 1:9-10
- 1 Peter 1:3-9
- 1 Corinthians 13:13

**III. Practically speaking, what are the “gold”, “silver” and “costly stones” that we desire to have built into our lives and others?**

**IV. What could the “wood”, “hay” and “straw” represent?**

**V. Reflect on your own walk with God and ask yourself and God how this study can practically apply to your life?**

### Relationship with God – FAITH

- Define faith using Hebrews 11:1
  
- Hebrews 11:6 says that without faith it is impossible to please God, however, there are some aspects to faith (*namely in how we relate to God*) that we must understand in order to experience growth and build it into others.

#### **I. According to Ecclesiastes 12:13, what would you say is one key aspect to growing in faith?**

A. Define “fear of God”

B. Why would fearing God help someone grow in faith?

C. Three key elements in God’s character to meditate on in considering “fearing God”...

#### **1. God’s Love**

- Luke 12:5-7
- Romans 8:37-39
- 1 John 4:8-10

#### **2. God’s Wisdom**

- Job 12:13
- Isaiah 40:13-14, 28
- Isaiah 55: 8-9

#### **3. God’s Sovereignty**

- Psalm 115:3
- Psalm 135:6
- Lamentations 3:37-38
- Daniel 4:35

**II. Read Psalm 34:9 and Hebrews 13:5. What do these verses reveal about God's character that should help us in our faith?**

**III. According to John 14:23-24 what is another key aspect of growing in faith in God?**

- What tells God more than anything that we love Him?

**IV. According to Isaiah 66:2 and Micah 6:8, what is another key aspect of growing in faith in God?**

A. Define humility?

B. According to Romans 12:3, what helps us have a proper perspective of ourselves?

**V. If the three key aspects to growing in faith are: fearing God, obeying God and being humble before God, what would be the red lights in someone's life that would reveal that he/she is not growing in faith?**

**VI. Application: Take some time right now and reflect on your relationship with God. Is there any area in your life that you are having a hard time trusting Him with? Is there any disobedience or hidden pride in your life that you need to confess and repent of?**

**VII. Application II: When helping others with faith issues, what tools can be used and how?**

**Relationship with the world –HOPE**

**I. Think of a time this year when you experienced a trial in your life? Share your experience. How did it feel and how did you respond (thoughts, feelings, actions, etc.) to this trial?**

**II. Read the quote below and answer the following questions:**

*“Modern Christianity, in dramatic reversal of its Biblical form, promises to relieve the pain of living in a fallen world.”*  
--Larry Crabb (Inside Out)

1. What is the danger that Crabb is trying to shed light on?
2. According to Genesis 3:16-17, Psalm 27:5, Psalm 34:19 and John 16:33, what are the inevitable consequences of living in a fallen world?
3. According to 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, what should our attitudes be towards these things?
4. According to John 14:16 and Hebrews 13:5, what are we promised in this world?

**III. Read Hosea 5:13 and answer the following questions:**

1. Where did Ephraim and Judah go to heal their pain?
2. Why was this a bad idea?
3. What is your “Assyria”? What do you hope in to heal your pain?

**IV. Look at the following passages:**

- Romans 5:1-5
  - Romans 8:18-25
  - 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:4
  - Hebrews 6:18-19
  - James 1:2-4
  - 1 Peter 4:12-13
  - What do these passages teach about hope?
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- How would you describe or define Biblical hope? How does it differ from the Hosea 5:13 passage?

**V. Read and think about the following definition of Biblical hope: “To forward to with pleasurable confidence and expectation, having to do with the unseen and the future.”**

**VI. 1 Peter 3:15 says that we need to be ready to give an answer for the hope that we have. Why would anyone be compelled to ask us about our hope?**

**VII. If growing in Biblical hope is enduring with thankfulness the trials and suffering that happen to us on earth, looking forward to being made perfect in heaven and being with God forever, then, what would the red lights be that would be a clear sign that someone is not growing in Biblical hope?**

**VIII. Application:**

**What trials or sufferings are you presently going through? How can you proceed through them in view of Biblical hope?**

Conclusion:

Our hope is in Christ's resurrection and ascension. Hope not only motivates us to endure; it keeps us pure, (Titus 2:11-14) makes us bold with God (2 Corinthians 3:12) and brings us joy (Romans 5:1-2). The ultimate goal is to become like Christ.

**Relationship with Each Other –LOVE**

**I. Think of a time recently when you felt genuinely loved by another person.**

**II. Think of a difficult relationship or a relationship that is not going well right now. (Perhaps you feel intimidated, resisted, left out, awkward, hurt, misunderstood, always in conflict...)**

- A. What is difficult about that relationship?
- B. What strategy have you used to try to deal with this?
- C. What anxieties or fears do you have as you consider moving toward that person in some way?

**III. As you think about your relationships, in what ways are you most tempted to put pressure on others to respect, understand, serve, or love you?**

**IV. Look at this passage: 1 John 4:7-19**

- A. What does this passage teach about love?
- B. Read and think about the following definition of God's love:  
  
"Total, complete, perfect, undeserving, unearned, unchanging, unconditional acceptance which rests completely on the work of Jesus at the Cross (total grace). He loved us when there was nothing good to be seen in us or nothing good to be said about us."  
  
▪ How has your understanding of God's love affected how you deal with others?
- C. What is the connection between fear and love?
- D. In relationships with others, it is inevitable that we will be hurt or disappointed. Try to think of an example of this. When that happened how did you respond? How does this passage speak to this?

**V. Often we relate to one another defensively, with various "strategies" for protecting ourselves in very subtle ways—*withdrawing, avoiding, cracking***

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jokes, saying something “spiritual”, acting serious or shy etc...

- What are some possible patterns in the way you relate to others that may keep people away from really knowing and enjoying you and what you have to give them?

**VI. What would it look like for you to grow in moving towards others out of a motivation of Christ’s love for them and for you?**