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HOLY HELPS

**Who Is A Disciple?**

“If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)

The servant girl asked Peter, “Are you one of this man’s disciples?” (John 18:17) A Christian disciple evidences, by lips, lifestyle and labors, the model of the Master. John Stott, one of our prominent theologians, defines discipleship as follows: “Discipleship is a constant focus on duplicating the lifestyle of Jesus Christ as nearly as we can, with the help of the Holy Spirit.”

George Barna, the most well-known religious pollster of our day puts it this way: “True discipleship is about a lifestyle, not simply about stored-up Bible knowledge. Often, churches assume that if people are reading the Bible and attending church, then real discipleship is happening. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Discipleship is about passionately pursuing the lifestyle of Jesus Christ.”

Eugene Peterson’s book on discipleship, is titled, “A Long Obedience in the Same Direction.” That is discipleship: A long obedience in the same direction! A disciple of Jesus Christ is a student who learns in the classroom of life as he follows his Teacher in a life-long pursuit to be with Him and to be like Him.

The words, disciple, discipline and discipleship share a kinship. Broadly speaking, of course, every Christian is considered to be a disciple of Christ until proven otherwise. When Peter warmed himself at the enemy’s fire, his behavior was questionable and prompted the young girl to ask: “Are you this man’s disciple?” The question was deliberate, and disturbing. Does the watching world question our commitment to Christ? What evidences identify us as consistent learner-followers of Jesus Christ?

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