
Sermon Series: Disciples Are Made, Not Born

The Measure of a Real Disciple

John 15: 7-17

I. Jesus' Teaching On Disciples:

- Is willing to deny self, take up a cross daily, and follow Him (*Luke 9:23-25*).
- Puts Christ before self, family, and possessions (*Luke 14:25-35*).
- Is committed to Christ's teachings (*John 8:31*).
- Is committed to world evangelism (*Matthew 9:36-38*).
- Loves others as Christ loves (*John 13:34, 35*).
- Abides in Christ, is obedient, bears fruit, glorifies God, has joy and loves others (*John 15:7-17*).

II. Six Ways To Measure A Disciple:

A. A Real Disciple Remains in Christ

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you." John 15:7

- "Remain" means "to abide or maintain contact for a sustained time."
- The word "IF" implies a degree of doubt.
- We remain in Christ when we are rightly related to His word and are committed to prayer.

B. A Real Disciple Is Obedient

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love" John 15:9

- People must be taught to obey.
"teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:20
- Jesus links obedience to love.
"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." John 14:21
- Jesus requires loving obedience of His disciples.
- The rewards of loving obedience are many.
- God loves us back by teaching us more about Himself.

C. A Real Disciple Bears Fruit

"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." John 15:8

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." John 15:16

- Jesus expected His disciples to reproduce.
- We must guard against the belief that you can bear fruit, be pleasing to God, but not share your faith.
- Evangelism is vital to making disciples.

D. A Real Disciple Glorifies God

"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." John 15:8

- The purpose of the church is to glorify God.
"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20, 21
- The Church best glorifies God by making disciples.

E. A Real Disciple Has Joy

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." John 15:11

- Joy is a supernatural sense of well being that comes from knowing that we are pleasing to God.
- People can take my happiness, but no one can take my joy.

F. A Real Disciple Loves As Jesus Loves

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12

"You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14

"This is my command: Love each other." John 15:17

- The standard Jesus raises is a high one.
- He doesn't expect perfection, but he does expect imitation.
- The mark of a disciple is love.