

EVIDENCE OF BEING A TRUE DISCIPLE

True faith takes its stand with Christ.

Matthew 10:32–33 (NKJV)

32 “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

True faith follows Christ in obedience and thus gives evidence of being a true disciple.

In Matthew 7:21 Jesus said it is those who do the will of the Father that will enter the kingdom. In Matthew 12:49-50 Jesus indicated that those who are truly His “spiritual” family are those who do the will of the Father. In Luke 8:21 Jesus said, “My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.”

When a man said he would follow Christ but FIRST had business to attend to at home, Jesus said, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” (Lk. 9:62).

In John 8:12 Jesus said, “I am the light of the world, He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” This applies to followers! In John 10:27 Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” In John 13:35 Jesus said His disciples would be known by their love for one another. In John 15:8 Jesus indicated that His disciples are manifest in the bearing of fruit.

Abraham is said to be the “father of all those who believe” who “walk in the steps of faith which our father Abraham had” (Rom. 4:11-12). Those who are led by the Spirit - “these are the sons of God” (Rom. 8:14). In contrast to the ways of the world, the believer did not so learn Christ, “if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus” (Eph. 4:20-21).

Paul told the Philippians that “He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6; cf. Phil. 2:13). John says, “everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him” (1 Jn. 2:29). And again, “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God.” (2 Jn. 9).

In saving faith, a person becomes a disciple but then needs to grow, as emphasized by Christ in Matthew 28:20. Maturity involves a process that may involve periods of carnality, in which case God is faithful to discipline His children in order to build holiness into their lives (Heb. 12:7-11).

Disciples are BORN and then developed (cf. Mark. 8:38; Luke. 9:26; 12:8; Rom. 10:9; 1 John. 4:15; and Revelation 3:5).

There are true and false disciples. The wheat and the tares grow together (cf. Matt. 13:24-43). A distinction is to be made between outward/external (mere form) discipleship and genuine disciples of the heart (cf. John 2:25; 6:61, 66, 8:31-33).

John 8:31 (NKJV)

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

There are "disciples" in word only who claim to believe, but those who abide in Christ's Word are truly "disciples indeed". BE REAL!