

# FOLLOWING JESUS

A Series of Lessons on Discipleship



Luke 6:40 –

"A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher."



## Why do so few follow Christ?

1. There is **no truth** – *so do what you want*
2. There all a bunch of **hypocrites** –



A test of discipleship:

‘My Father is glorified by this,  
that you **bear much fruit**, and  
so prove to be My disciples.’

Jesus, John 15:8





# *Living* **in the Vine**

As disciples who abide in Christ, we are to bring glory to God by becoming like Christ in all things.

# 1. As disciples we either bring God shame or we cause Him to be glorified.

1 Peter 2:11, 12 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. 12 Keep your **behavior excellent** among the Gentiles, so that in the **thing in which they slander you as evildoers**, they may because of your **good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God** in the day of visitation.

## 1 Peter 2:15

For such is the will of God that by **doing right** you may **silence** the ignorance of foolish men.

1 Peter 3:16 ...and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are **slandered**, those who revile your **good behavior** in Christ will **be put to shame**.



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# 1. As disciples we either bring God shame or we cause Him to be glorified.

Titus 2:6-8 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; 7 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, 8 sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

Titus 2:9-10 Urge bond slaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.



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# 1. As disciples we either bring God shame or we cause Him to be glorified.

**Hebrews 2:11** For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not **ashamed** to call them brethren.

**Hebrews 11:6** But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not **ashamed** to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.



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## 2. As disciples our purpose is to become like Him.



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**Romans 8:29** *For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become **conformed to the image of His Son**, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.*

**Colossians 3:9, 10** *Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, 10 and have put on the **new self** who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the **image of the One who created him**.*

**Luke 6:40** *"A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, **will be like his teacher.**"*



## 2. As disciples our purpose is to become like Him.



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### The FRUIT which we bear:

#### 2 Peter 1:4-8

For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

## 2. As disciples our purpose is to become like Him.



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### The FRUIT:

Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply

- **moral excellence**, and in your moral excellence,
- **knowledge**, 6 and in your knowledge,
- **self-control**, and in your self-control,
- **perseverance**, and in your perseverance,
- **godliness**, 7 and in your godliness,
- **brotherly kindness**, and in your brotherly kindness,
- **love**.



## 2. As disciples our purpose is to become like Him.



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8 For if these qualities are yours and are **increasing**, they render you neither useless nor **unfruitful** in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#3 Question on the USA Today poll was, "Why do bad things happen?"

"every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit" 15:2



## 2. As disciples our purpose is to become like Him.



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“every **branch** that bears **fruit**,  
He prunes it so that it may  
bear more **fruit**” 15:2

To become like Jesus Christ God is going to take you through everything Jesus went through.

To take on the divine nature God puts you in the opposite situation of the desired nature.

“I am the **vine**, **you** are the  
**branches**; he who **abides in Me**  
and I in him, he bears much **fruit**”

15:5



### 3. We become such disciples only by abiding in Him.

15:5

“I am the **vine**, **you** are the **branches**; he who **abides** in Me and I in him, he bears much **fruit**, for apart from Me **you** can do nothing.”

- **Abide[s]** – 10

### 3. We become such disciples only by abiding in Him.

John 15:1-11

#### *Living* in the **Vine**

- Vine/branch – 8
- Abide[s] – 10
- ~~Fruit~~ – 6
- In Me/My – 17
- You[r] – 17

"I am the true **vine**, and **My** Father is the vinedresser. 2 "Every **branch in Me** that does not bear **fruit**, He takes away; and every **branch** that bears **fruit**, He prunes it so that it may bear more **fruit**. 3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 "**Abide in Me**, and I in you. As the **branch** cannot bear **fruit** of itself unless it **abides** in the **vine**, so neither can you unless you **abide in Me**. 5 "I am the **vine**, you are the **branches**; he who **abides in Me** and I in him, he bears much **fruit**, for apart from **Me** you can do nothing. 6 "If anyone does not **abide in Me**, he is thrown away as a **branch** and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. 7 "If you **abide in Me**, and **My** words **abide** in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 "**My** Father is glorified by this, that you bear much **fruit**, and so prove to be **My** disciples. 9 "Just as the Father has loved **Me**, I have also loved you; **abide** in **My** love. 10 "If you keep **My** commandments, you will **abide** in **My** love; just as I have kept **My** Father's commandments and **abide** in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you so that **My** joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.



### 3. We become such disciples only by abiding in Him.

“Every **branch** in Me that does not bear **fruit**, He takes away”

“If anyone does not **abide** in Me, he is thrown away as a **branch** and dries up; and they gather them, and **cast them into the fire** and they are burned.”





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John 15:8