

A TRUE DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

INTRO:

In 2021, nearly 6,000 individuals were martyred for Christ. An increase of 24% from 2020. In 2021, 360 million Christians world-wide suffered significant persecution for their Christian faith. In the early church, many died a martyr's death by stoning, sawing, burning, crucifixion, and many other forms of torture and capital punishment. Stephen was the first martyred for Christ (**ACTS 7:59-60**). In short, a true disciple of Christ is one who's willing to lay down his life for the one who laid down His life for him.

Make Disciples (**MT. 28:18-20 NKJV**)

The goal of evangelism is not to make theologians, but disciples. A disciple is a learner, a disciplined student, or one who follows and adheres to his teacher's teachings. The goal being to emulate his master's life (**LUKE 6:40, ROM. 8:29**). A true disciple is one who has experienced regeneration and lives his life for Christ.

Marks of a Disciple

- 1.) Continue in His Word (**JOHN 8:31**). He studies the Word, surrenders to its teachings, and strives to adhere to it. To him, the Word is the final authority and it's to be exalted above his own thoughts about life (**JOHN 15:1-7 NKJV**). The Word to a true disciple is like what water is to a fish or what soil is to a plant.
- 2.) Loves as Christ loves (**JOHN 13:34-35 NKJV; MT. 5:43-48**). Love is the true test of discipleship (**1JOHN 4:20 NKJV**).
- 3.) Bears Fruit (**JOHN 15:8 NKJV**). We are to be connected and intentional about our walk with Christ.
- 4.) Counts the Cost (**LUKE 14:26-33 NKJV**). Many followed Jesus for the miracles, healing, and free food. He knew they desired the benefits above the life he was calling them to. He made it clear that a true disciple puts Him first (**1 John 2:15-17**). Remember the rich young ruler (**LK 18:18-25 NKJV**)? He's not opposed to people having riches, He's opposed to riches having us.

Rewards (**MK. 10:28-30 NKJV**)

The rewards are for now and later (**PS. 91:14-16, REV. 21:1-8 NKJV**). Peace of mind now, and a wonderful future in eternity.

Repentance and Baptism (**ACTS 2:38**)

To repent means to have a change of heart and mind. It means to turn away from something and turn to something else (**1 THES. 1:9**). In Baptism, we are saying that we've turned away from serving self to serving the true and living God (**ROM. 6:1-7 HCSB**).

CONCLUSION: A true disciple is one whose longing desire is to emulate His master's life, and if need be, sacrifice his life in the process.

