

OUTSIDE OF THE BOX



WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW JESUS

A surrendered follower of the glorious Christ

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1. Every 'believer' is a disciple.
2. Being a follower of Christ is dynamic rather than static.
3. The life of a disciple is empowered by the Spirit of God and the Word of God.
4. Discipleship is a '*person to be*' rather than a '*project or a program to complete*'.
5. One essential dimension of following Christ is doing it with one another.

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As a disciple, you become an ambassador...
a representative...

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us.

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

21 For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

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...an inviter.

Qualifications to be a disciple of a Rabbi in the 1st century:

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Elementary level: Beth Safra – House of the Book

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When completed, a Jewish man would ask to be invited to "follow" a particular Rabbi.

19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."

21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."

22 So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

23 He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

24 (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)

25 They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

26 John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know,

27 even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."

28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

30 This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because He was before me.'

31 I myself did not know Him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel."

32 And John bore witness:

"I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him.

33 I myself did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

- 35** The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples,
36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"
37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.
38 Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?"
And they said to Him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"
39 He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying,
and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.
40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew,
Simon Peter's brother.
41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah"
(which means Christ).
42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "So you are Simon the son
of John? You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

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