



### A working definition of a DISCIPLE:



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5 foundational principles related to being a follower of Christ:



- 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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## John 17 in review....

## As a *surrendered* follower of the glorious Christ...

- The relationships within the Godhead....the Trinity....(3 who's and 1 what) are defined by their love for one another.
- The relationship between God and His people is also defined by His love for us and our responsive love for Him.

## Therefore...

 The relationship between believers is supposed to be defined by the same sort of love that exists in the Godhead and is extended to His followers. Ephesians 4:1-16
unity in the Body of Christ

- 1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
- with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,
- **3** eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- **4** There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call--
- **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
- 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

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**Definition:** gentleness

**Usage:** mildness, gentleness. *meekness* ("gentle strength") which expresses *power* with *reserve and* gentleness. **Power under control.** 

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#### spoudazó

(spoo-dad'-zo)

**Definition:** to make haste, to give diligence

**Usage:** I hasten, I am eager, I am zealous.

...be swift (go fast, be speedy);

(figuratively) to move speedily by showing full diligence (fully applying oneself); acting fervently (speedy commitment) to accomplish all that God assigns through faith

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- 11 And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,
- to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,
- until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.
- Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,
- from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

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God's deepest desire is for us to be one in the same fashion that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are 3 who's but 1 what. Diversity is celebrated, and unity is dynamic.

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# With whom....and in what way?



