

- C. He is not envious of others. He does not harbor a painful or **RESENTFUL** awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another. He is not discontent because of the possessions or good fortune of another.

Unhappy with the will of God

PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF TRUTH

Becoming a Disciple of Jesus

1. Read Matthew 16:24-26 and then the following quote from John MacArthur on taking up our cross:

“When Jesus said, ‘take up your cross’ to them, they thought of a cruel instrument of torture and death. They thought of dying in the most agonizing method known to man. They thought of poor, condemned criminals hanging on crosses by the roadside. Doubtless they had seen men executed in that fashion. They understood he was calling them to die for Him. They knew He was asking them to make the ultimate sacrifice, to surrender to Him as Lord in every sense.”

- A. Do you feel this kind of Christianity is being practiced today? Why or why not?
- B. Why does Paul teach the Galatians to “crucify the flesh” (Galatians 5:24)?

2. The following quote by herb W. Coates states his opinion on the difference between religion and relationship. Do you agree?

“Jesus wasn’t interested in our being religious. He never once asked anybody to embrace Christianity. He calls us to follow Him. Following Jesus Christ is a relationship that drives and defines all we are and do. It’s not a project. It’s a Person. It’s a relationship to a Person who perfectly loves and cares for us and who is wise beyond comparison—a Person who has done so much for His followers that they look for ways to please and obey Him. If Christianity is dull and boring, if it is a burden and not a blessing, then most likely we are involved in a project and not a Person—a system not a Savior, a religion not a relationship.”

BECOMING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS

Galatians 5:24-26

And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

*“O Lord, forgive what I have been,
sanctify what I am,
and order what I shall be.”*

Followers of Christ (disciples) are identified by the following major characteristics:

1. Disciples are CRUCIFIED with Christ.

“The cross is laid on every Christian. It begins with the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old man which is the result of his encounter with Christ.”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Matthew 16:24-26—Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.²⁶ For what profit

is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Galatians 2:20—I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me:

2. Disciples are WALKING in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:25—If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

“Walking implies progress, going from where one is to where he ought to be. As a believer submits to the Spirit’s control, he moves forward in his spiritual life. The Spirit is the source of all holy living and the believer is called to follow.”

A. He does not GRIEVE the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30-32—And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

God is grieved when His children refuse to exchange the old ways of sin for those righteous ways of the new life.

B. He does not QUENCH the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:19—Do not quench the Spirit.

The fire of God’s Spirit is not to be doused by our sins.

C. He is CONTROLLED by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:17-21—Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.

3. Disciples are CHANGING by God’s grace.

Galatians 5:25—Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

A. He is not conceited. He does not have an excessively high OPINION of himself.

An unrealistic view of oneself

Philippians 2:3-4—Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

B. He does not provoke others. He does not INCITE others to anger.

Unkind treatment of others.