

Agape House of Worship
Midweek Bible Study

Topic: The Marks Of A Disciple

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A famous missionary by the name of Stanley Jones went to India and asked Mohatma Ghandi the following question. How do we evangelize India? The following was Ghandi's answer: "I don't reject your Christ. I love your Christ. It is just that so many of you Christians are so unlike your Christ. If Christians would really live according to the teaching of Christ, as found in the Bible, all of India would be Christian today."

Marks defined: 1. Make a visible impression or stain on. Syn. Notch, Scar, Blot 2. A written word or symbol on an object, typically for identification purposes. Syn. Name, Initial, Tag, Stamp, Brand 3. A noteworthy quality or feature of. Syn. Characteristic, Trait, Sign

Disciple of Christ defined: A disciple is a believer who follows Christ for the purpose of learning from Christ how to be like Christ. This same disciple then offers his own imitation of Christ as a model for others to follow. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

Quiz Time-Instructions: Below is a list of companies/organizations. Next to it write what it is known for. Coca-Cola _____; Colgate _____; Tesla _____; Starbucks _____; Apple _____; Rolex _____; Christians _____;

Questions:

1. What are **you**, as a Christian Known for? _____
2. What are **Christians today** known for? _____

Intro: The next two Wednesdays we'll be diving into the topic: The Marks of a disciple.

In the believer's life the Marks Of A Disciple refer to the characteristics that identify a person as a follower of Christ. One of the challenges of today's Christianity is that it is far removed from the Christianity we see played out in the pages of the New Testament. This is problematic because this keeps us from fully representing and looking like the Christ we say we follow.

From the inside looking in, we seem like we have it all together because we fill our time with church activities and various "spiritual disciplines". But when the outside world looks inside the church, they say, "So What?" "What's The Big Deal Here?"

This explains why we are not impacting the world around us the way and at the rate that we should.

Question: What should Christians be known for? _____

It is this question that Marks Of A Disciple seeks to answer.

Let's begin with the end in mind:

The supreme goal of a disciple of Christ is to become like their teacher, inside and out (in everything).
Matt. 4:19 Come, follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.

Mark # 1: You Must Be Born Again!

One might say that this mark is the most basic and obvious of the marks, and it is, but it bears repeating.

1. A disciple is first a believer who has exercised saving faith in Christ Alone. Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and **be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall **receive the gift of the Holy Ghost**.

*other born again references Jn. 3; Col. 2:12; Rom. 10:9-10; Rom.6:23

Mark # 2: You must love The Lord Your God.

1. A disciple of Jesus loves The Lord God with all of his heart, soul and mind. Matt. 22: **37** Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ **38** This is the first and greatest commandment.

We don't have to go any further than John 14:15-23 (read) to know how Jesus qualifies love for Him.

*We must keep His commands Jn.14:15-23

*We must do everything in love 1 Cor. 16:14 Do everything in love.

Question: What does this look like in the life of a disciple?

Mark # 3: You must love your neighbor as yourself

2. A disciple of Jesus loves his neighbor as he loves himself

Matt. 22:39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

*Loving our neighbor is a mark of discipleship Jn.13:34 & 35

*A true disciple loves like Jesus loves, unto death Jn.15:13

Question: What does this look like in the life of a disciple?

Mark # 4: A disciple is committed to the Great Commission

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus instructs His disciples to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” This biblical mandate, commonly known as the Great Commission, instructs Christians to move outward and make disciples, establishing them in faith and initiating them into fellowship. Discipleship is at the heart of the Great Commission. The Great Commission is written to the disciples, and the thrust of it is to make disciples. Hence a true disciple is committed to the Great Commission. The Great Commission reveals the priority of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. When you become a disciple of Jesus, you will adopt His priorities. You will support it and advance it. Anything involving bringing new souls to the kingdom, whether locally or in faraway countries, will excite you.

