



Purpose 4

Purpose of the Elders Discipleship Group: To Train and Equip Discipleship Group leaders to lead more effectively.

Key Theme: Purpose.

Key Truth: Perfected in Love to Be and Become His Disciple.

Key Scripture: *Matthew 10:24-25* "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master."

Read: The heartbeat of any disciple is to become like his Teacher. This is how one knows if they are a disciple of Jesus Christ or not. Their desire and priority in life is to become like the One they follow and nothing else gets in the way of this pursuit. It's one thing to say one is a disciple but it's an entirely different dimension to be, become and live as one. One can even be in a discipleship environment but is that one actually being disciplined by the Spirit of Truth?

There is a massive difference between a disciple of Jesus Christ and a convert of Jesus Christ. The disciple wants to become just like the One he loves and is being taught and led by, applying the wisdom from the Teacher to their lives by faith.

A convert is happy to receive all the blessings of what the Teacher provides, but very seldom is interested in going beyond this point, especially when it is going to cost them more than they are prepared to give. We have all been hand selected by the Father before the foundation of the earth to be disciples of Jesus Christ. The word disciple is mentioned in the New American Standard bible 272 times, and the meaning of the word disciple is 'one who is a dedicated follower'.

What does it mean to be a dedicated or a devoted follower of Jesus, compared to being someone who is a convert of Jesus? We find the answer to this question in Luke 14:25-35 under the heading "Discipleship tested".

Take the time as a group to go through these verses (Luke 14:25-35) and get someone to write down the key observations that Jesus brings to light in this whole area of being His disciple and the standard of being His disciple.

After you have completed this exercise get the person to read out the key findings and then have someone send them out to the group via email as a reference for us all.

Questions:

1. Describe in your own words what keeping His Word means?
2. What does abiding in Christ look like and how does one know if they are truly abiding in Christ the Way Christ deems fit?
3. Not being able to love like Christ doesn't mean one is not justified by His blood, so what does it mean?
4. What is the difference between being a Disciple of Jesus and a casual consumer of Jesus?
5. How does a Disciple of Jesus live compared to a casual consumer?

Action: What is one thing you may need to put in place from going through this resource?