

Am I a Disciple of Jesus?

THE WAY WEEK 1 | AMANDA BEGGS

The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as “Christians” will become disciples—students, apprentices, practitioners—of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence.

- **Dallas Willard, The Great Omission:
Reclaiming Jesus’s Essential Teachings on Discipleship**

There’s a difference between **identifying as a Christian** and **living as a disciple**.

Am I a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Luke 9:23

And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”

“And He said to all,”

- Open to ALL who put their faith in Him.

“If anyone would come after me,”

- An invitation to become a disciple.
- There are no qualifications or disqualifications to be a disciple of Jesus.

“Let him deny himself”

- Let go of own plans and purposes for my life and fully submit to Jesus’ authority
- Disciples relinquish control
- Move from allegiance to self, to allegiance to Jesus.

“Take up his cross daily”

- Utmost in self-denial
- Die to a whole way of life
- Live differently
- Daily put to death anything that is not fully submitted to Jesus

“Follow me.”

- “Be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did.”
- John Mark Comer
- Disciples imitate the life of Jesus

→ Discipleship is the **lifelong process** of surrender to Jesus.

Luke 9:23-27

For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

→ Inside costly discipleship, you'll discover life as it is meant to be lived, who you are meant to be.

John 14:6

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Saved (past): Jesus is the Way we are made right before God.

Saving (present): Jesus is the Way to have abundant life now.

Will be saved (future): Jesus is the Way to eternity with God.

John 15:4-5

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

→ The lifelong process of surrender is only possible if we make our home in Jesus. **Apart from Him we can do nothing.**

→ We are all disciples. Who we follow determines how we are formed.

Who am I following?

1. Who or what do I put my faith in to show me the way to the life that I desire?
2. What is the organizing center of my life?
3. Who is my luminary or influencer of choice?
4. Who or what am I walking so closely behind that their dust is all over me?
5. Where do I aim my attention and affection?

Formation Dashboard

1. Digital Habits: show us what we keep going back to
2. Bank Statement: shows us what we are willing to invest in
3. Calendar: shows us what we prioritize
4. Thought Life: shows us what has our hearts
5. Sacrifices: show us what we value

The biggest issue facing the family today, is whether parents who identify as Christians will live as disciples of Jesus.

What good is it for our kids to gain the whole world, but forfeit their souls?

Luke 10:38-42

What good portion are you holding onto?

Jesus is calling you to more. We have to choose Him every single day.

To have found God and still to pursue Him is the soul's paradox of love, scorned indeed by the too-easily-satisfied religionist, but justified in happy experience by the children of the burning heart.

- **A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God**

the way.

DOING WHAT JESUS DID