

What Does A Disciple Look Like?
A Disciple displays the character of Jesus

Introduction:

I. A disciple is one who seeks to become “like” his teacher.

A. Luke 6:40, *“A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.”*

B. The goal of Paul’s ministry was to present every person that he ministered to as being complete in Christ (Colossians 1:28-29).

II. To be “like” Christ is to be like Him in His character.

A. There are many aspects to the character of Jesus.

B. The primary characteristic of the character of Jesus to be displayed by His disciples is love.

John 13:35, *“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* (NIV)

III. The word “love” has many meanings.

A. Words like “love” can be interpreted in many ways.

B. In Greek there are three primary words translated into the English word, “love.”

1. Eros –

2. Phileo –

3. Agape –

IV. Agape love is what displays the character of Christ.

A. Agape is not a feeling, even though it doesn’t mean that your emotions are not involved, but rather it is as Joseph Stowell puts it, “a commitment, it is a resolve, it is a decision I make, it is an act of my will (regardless of how I feel) to focus on the needs of someone else and then to marshal the resources of my life to meet those needs.” As Stowell puts it, “it is real clear that this is the Biblical meaning of the word love when you look at a verse like John 3:16. ‘For God so loved, this was God’s kind of love (agape love), that He saw the

world in desperate need, marshaled the resources of His Son and gave His Son to meet my need. That's how God so loved the world."

B. Agape love is to be expressed to our enemies.

C. Agape love determines the value of our ministry (1 Corinthians 13 versus 1-3), *"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

D. Agape love is patient and kind. *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."* (1 Corinthians 13:1-8, NIV)

E. Agape love is a fruit of the Spirit - *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."* (Galatians 5:22-23, NIV)

V. Conclusion and Application

How have you seen agape love expressed by a disciple of Jesus that you know personally?

Write out one way that you could demonstrate agape love to a brother or sister in Christ this week and commit to doing it.

Write out one way that you could demonstrate agape love to someone outside of your comfort zone (family and friends) this week and commit to doing it.