

The Measure of a Disciple

1. Every Disciple begins with belief in Jesus
 - A. Belief in the name of Jesus is essential to eternal life – John 3:16-18; 1 John 5:10-12
 - B. The disciples were committed to Jesus because they fully believed two things – John 6:66-69
 - 1) He was the Son of God
 - 2) He held the key to eternal life
2. The Disciple is measured by his growing commitment to the truth
 - A. Jesus confronted the religious leaders with the importance of the truth – John 8:31-32
 - 1) Disciples are those who hold to Jesus' teaching
 - 2) Jesus' teaching is truth
 - 3) Truth sets us free
 - B. Four Truths about Truth
 - 1) Truth is that which is real and genuine not that which we desire it to be (living a fantasy)
 - a. Ex. Game with the kids of "Real or Pretend?"
 - 2) We don't invent or create truth, we discover it. There is no such thing as my truth.
 - 3) Truth doesn't change but our understanding of the truth may grow and change. This is because truth is reality, not an opinion.
 - 4) The truth does not depend on how strongly or sincerely we believe something to be true. Our belief in something does not make it true. It is true whether or not we believe it to be true.
 - C. Why is the truth important to a disciple?
 - 1) We cannot have real confidence in that which is not real – Hebrews 11:1
 - 2) Those who reject the truth belong to the devil – John 8:44-47
3. The Disciple is measured by his growing love
 - A. Jesus told the disciples they would be known by their love for one another – John 13:34-35
 - 1) This is a command, it is not optional or conditional
 - 2) We are to love as Jesus has loved us. This clearly defines the goal of love.
 - 3) This love is to be so evident that those around us recognize the difference
 - 4) This love is to be consistent enough among believers that it becomes the identifying mark of the believers
 - B. Love is the central theme of all of Scripture – Mark 12:28-31
 - C. John presents the importance of love in the life of the disciple of Jesus – 1 John 4:7-21
 - 1) Love originates in God – vs. 7
 - 2) It is impossible to know God and not know love – vs. 8, 16b
 - 3) God demonstrated His love in the gift of His Son – vs. 9-10, 19
 - 4) God's love is made complete in our loving others – vs. 11-12, 20-21
4. Truth and Love are essential to our growth in the faith and as disciples – Ephesians 4:14-16
 - A. Immature disciples are easily swayed by the culture around them – vs. 14
 - B. Speaking the truth in love leads to maturity – vs. 15

- 1) Without truth, we have nothing real to build on
 - 2) Without love, we have no relationship within which to build
- C. As every part of the body grows in this way, the body of Christ is built up