

Challenge to Discipleship

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I. Introduction.

A. A disciple is not...

1. Simply a person who has had a religious experience in the past.
2. Simply a person who made a decision. (2 Kings 10:31)
3. Simply a person who arrives at a plateau.
4. Simply a person who is a member of some church organization.

B. A disciple is...

1. A learner.
2. There is a concept of growth and movement in knowledge of God, people and truth.
3. Biblical knowledge is not just the acquisition of facts. It is relationship and experience.

II. Knowledge of God. (John 14:7-11)

A. We know God through Jesus.

B. Jesus reveals the Father through his words and works.

1. To have a love relationship with God we must know him through the Bible.
2. We also get to know God through what he did and made.

III. Knowledge of people. (John 13:1)

A. True love has a quality of permanence.

B. We must lay aside our “garments” stripping ourselves of all rank and position. (Philippians 2)

C. We must be involved with people in their needs and problems. (John 13:5)

IV. Knowledge of the truth.

A. This is not merely academic truth—it is truth that finds application in obedience. (2 Timothy 3:7)

B. God asks us to try him out with specific areas of need. (Malachi 3:10)

C. Jesus calls us to come and join him in the storm. (Matthew 11; 14:28-41; 15; 13:58; Jeremiah 33:3)

V. These three love relationships are inseparable.

Application questions:

1. Why is knowledge of God more than accumulation of facts?

2. What does it look like to love someone according to Jesus' model?

3. Which area of learning would you like to challenge yourself in the most? How can you go about this?
