

# Embracing the Call of a True Follower of Jesus Christ



**Isaiah 60:1-3; Ephesians 5:1-17**

- **The Believer must allow the Holy Spirit to transform his thinking about what it means to be a Christian, a disciple and a true follower of Jesus Christ. (Romans 12:1-2, Proverbs 23:7, Luke 6:45-46)**
  
- A. God is sounding the alarm for His church (the body of Christ), to arise and reach out to our world that is trenched in darkness.**
  - **What is the Biblical definition of the word “arise”?**
  - **The word “arise” means to rise, to stand up, to be stirred up, to awake, to be in a state of readiness or to prepare for action (call to service).**
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  - **The Purpose: to teach us the significance of embracing Jesus Christ’s teaching and following His example as true disciples.**
  - **The Goal: for every person to make Jesus Christ clear and visible to the world around them.**
  - **The Spiritual Principles: Stewardship, Authority, Obedience, Unconditional Love, Agreement, Faith, Grace**
  - **The Objective: 1.) Embrace the Call of a True Disciple, 2.) Embrace the Walk of a True Follower of Jesus Christ, 3.) Embrace Christ’s Call to Witness, 4.) Embrace Christ’s Call to Love and Serve Others, 5.) Embrace Christ’s Authority**
  
- B. There are Five Things that every True Disciple should remember about Jesus Christ (Matthew 9:35-38)**
  - 1. Jesus Christ’s message. (vs. 35)**
  - 2. Jesus Christ’s commitment. (vs. 35)**
  - 3. What Jesus Christ saw that was both moving and concerning to Him. (vs. 36)**
  - 4. What Jesus Christ said to His disciples. (37-38)**
  - 5. What happened when Jesus called His disciples. (Matthew 4:19-22)**

**C. Why did Jesus spend time teaching His disciples after He called them? There are Three Things that are important as a disciple of Jesus Christ:**

- 1. Hearing and obeying Jesus Christ's teaching.**
- 2. Following Jesus Christ's example.**
- 3. Become like Jesus Christ.**

**D. Not everyone who followed and gathered around Jesus became His disciple. (Matthew 4:24-25) The Crowd followed and gathered around Jesus for two reasons:**

- 1. Some followed and gathered to either witness a miracle or receive a miracle in their life.**
- 2. Some followed and gathered to either hear Christ's teaching or to accuse Him of false teaching (religious leaders).**

**E. There are Six Things every True Disciple should recognize about being in Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:5-6)**

- 1. Recognize that God has done His part by sending His Son Jesus Christ to die for the sins of all humanity. (John 3:16, John 1:1-14, Philippians 2:5-11, Romans 5:8-10)**
- 2. Recognize that through Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection, that our sins are forgiven and we now have a right to eternal life. (John 3:36, 10:28-30, 1 John 5:11-13, Ephesians 1:7-10, Romans 6:22-23)**
- 3. Recognize that through Jesus Christ, we are now made righteous and have been reconciled to God. (Romans 5:8-12, Colossians 1:19-22, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21)**
- 4. Recognize that through faith in Jesus Christ, we now have access to the throne of the Almighty God. (John 14:6, Ephesians 2:18, 3:11-12, Hebrews 4:16, 1 Timothy 2:5)**
- 5. Recognize that through faith in Jesus Christ, we now have peace with God and the peace of God. (Romans 5:1-2, Philippians 4:6-7)**
- 6. Recognize that through faith in Jesus Christ, I am no longer an enemy of God, but a friend and a child of the Most-High God. (John 15:13-15, Romans 8:14-17)**

**F. Embracing the Call to be a True Disciple of Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:1-7)**

- 1. A true disciple is known as a student, learner, a believer, or a dedicated follower of Jesus Christ.**
  - (Ephesians 5:1) – “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”
  - Apostle Paul challenged the believer in his opening statement: “be” imitators of God as dear children.
  - What does it mean to be an imitator of God?
    - a. The word “be” means to become.
      - The believer is to become just like Jesus Christ.
    - b. The word “imitator” means to follow, to copy, to display, to follow the same pattern or model the same characteristics and behaviors, to maintain the same example or standard.
      - The word “imitator” can also denote a person’s selfless commitment, devotion, attachment, and allegiance to the person they love and adore.
    - c. The word “impersonator” means to pretend, to act, to perform, or entertain.
      - The word “impersonator” can have a negative connotation such as deceiver, fraudster, trickster or cheater.
      - It is the act of attempting to deceive someone by pretending to be another.
    - d. The word “impostor” means to pretend to be someone else in order to deceive others, or one that assumes a false identity or title for the purpose of deception.
      - They are deceivers who always show up with evil and malicious intentions.
      - They present a spiritual and physical danger to everyone who comes in contact with them. (2 John 1:7-13, Matthew 7:15-16, John 10:7-13)

**G. There are Three types of people that show up to every Sunday morning service: (Matthew 7:15-23, Matthew 24:24, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, Acts 20:28-30, 2 Peter 3:16-18, 1 John 4:1-6)**

1. "Imitators" – Those who are True disciples or followers Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:1-2)
  - Those who model or pattern their lives after Jesus Christ.
  - Those whose lives reflect the life and character of Jesus Christ.
2. "Impersonators" – Those who pretend, act, perform or entertain. (1 John 2:19, Acts 19:11-17)
  - Those who never take their relationship with Christ serious, so you can never take them seriously.
  - Those who love the thought and idea of being associated with Christ without being in Christ.
  - Those who pretend or act as though they know Christ (intimately) – the truth is they only know about Him.
  - Those who pretend or act as though they love Christ – the truth is; they only love the reaction they get out of being religious (quote a few scriptures).
  - They end up making a mockery of the name of Christ and His Church (the body of Christ).
  - They are not serious about Jesus Christ – "They play church instead of becoming the Church."
  - They are good pretenders and actors – "They have the ability to impersonate Jesus Christ, the person, without ever becoming like Him or taking on the identity of Jesus Christ."
3. "Impostors" – One that assumes a false identity or title for the purpose of deception. (John 10:10, Acts 20:28-30, 1 John 4:1-6)
  - They come with the evil intent to deceive and destroy the lives of people.
  - They are against Jesus Christ.
  - They reject both Jesus Christ and His teaching.
  - Their lives are unfruitful and barren.
  - They pose a threat to every believer whether spiritually immature or mature.

- H. How can a person become an “imitator or follower” of God?**
- 1. Before a person can become a “imitator or follower” of God he/she must be attached to God through Jesus Christ. (John 3:3, John 15:5-6, John 14:6)**
  - 2. It starts with a person responding to Christ’s call to repent, asking for forgiveness of their sins, and believing in the name Jesus Christ. (Romans 10:9-10, 13, 1 John 1:9)**
- I. What pattern does God give for every True disciple to imitate or follow?**
- 1. The pattern that God gave to us as believers to “imitate or follow” was Himself. (Ephesians 5:1, John 3:16, Philippians 2:1-8, 12-13)**
  - 2. The believer can simply look at God’s Son (Jesus Christ) as the True example. (Hebrews 12:1-3)**
  - 3. The believer must embrace the call to be imitators of God by following His example and maintaining Christ’s standard way of living.**