

## All This Matters

*There's So Much More To Following Jesus  
May 8, 2022*

Daily habits and disciplines of being a Jesus follower. A disciple.

*A disciple is a learner, an apprentice, a pupil, a follower.*

Disciples are Jesus followers who are looking for direction from their Master, and we learn to do what the Master does.

**Matthew 4:19** Jesus called out to them, “**Come, follow Me & I will show you how to fish for people!**” 20 And they left their nets at once & followed Him.

1. **Come** - Follow; Get Near and Stay Near to Jesus
2. **Hear** - Listen, Pay Attention, Learn the Word, Learn His ways
3. **Do** - Obey, Practice, Renew, Stir up, Activate, Discipline

**John 13:34b AMP** “...**Love one another.** Just as I've loved you, so you too are to **love one another.** 35 By this everyone will know that you're My **disciples** if you have love & unselfish concern for one another.”

*God is counting us to show the world's people His love & goodness!*

**1 Timothy 4:7b** ...**train yourself** to be godly. 8 “Physical training is good, but **training for godliness** is much better, promising benefits in this life & in the life to come.”

*Being consistent isn't the same as being perfect. Big difference. We need grace to fail occasionally - Consistency is not the same as perfection.*

## THE CHURCH

*People think of the CHURCH as small, poor, silly, not relevant, uncool... Sister Beulah playing the organ, Brother Billy Bob leading the songs like he has for the last 50 years; mean old, out of touch preacher & nobody full of the Holy Spirit to reach the unchurched.*

***Well...we're here to change that!***

*Many Christians have lowered their life to just surviving & hanging on until Jesus comes! We're just living life so defeated & down & weak!!*

**Matthew 16:15** ... “**But who do you say I am?**” 16 Simon Peter said, “**You’re the Messiah, (the Christ, anointed one) the Son of the living God.**” 17 Jesus said “**You’re blessed Simon, because My Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You didn’t learn this from any human being. 18 Now I say to you that you are Peter/Rock & upon this rock I will build My church & all the powers of hell will not conquer it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven...**”

*Jesus says the powers or gates of hell will not prevail against the church. Hell will not prevail against the protection of a strong church. Christ promises that we, His Church cannot fail! The powers of hell will not prevail against us, us disciples, in the church!*

*Peter’s confession of faith is in Jesus. Jesus is the Christ, Messiah, Son of the Living God, Answer, Salvation, Life, Hope, Love,*

**Ephesians 1:22** God’s put all things under the authority of Christ & has made Him head over all things for the benefit of the church. 23 The church is His body; *it* is made full & complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere w/ Himself. **WE ARE THE CHURCH!!**

*God has already decided & made a way for the church to succeed in its mission to equip & empower us to passionately love Jesus & people.*

***The negative, sick, death environment we live in, keeps us confused!***

*The Church is called to take dominion over the devil’s works in Jesus’ name. Jesus makes us shine as glorious lights of God’s reflection.*

*We’re not to be like Jonah, trying to run out of town & get away from Nineveh, the city God sent him to. No, we’re called to march right into the middle of Nineveh, w/ signs & wonders following the preaching of the glorious, abundant message Jesus died to bring.*

*On the offense, not the defense! The head, not the tail. Above, not beneath. Greater is God who is in us than he, the devil, who is in the world. We’re overcomers and more than conquerors!!*

***We need His power! We need His presence! We need an experience!  
Not just words; Not just an explanation; Not just routines & religion.***

**1 John 1:7** If we're living in the light as God's in the light, *we have fellowship w/ each other...*

Christians, *all people*, who don't have a church home are in an unsafe place. \*Christians who don't have a church home are on their own.

***God uses churches to heal & strengthen His people.***

**Ephesians 2:19b** ...You are citizens along w/ all of God's holy people. You're members of God's family. 20 Together, *we're His house*, built on the foundation of the apostles & the prophets. The cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself. 21 We are carefully *joined together* in Him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. 22 Through Him you Gentiles are also being made *part of this dwelling where God lives* by His Spirit.

*When it comes to going to church, God doesn't want us just to attend church—He wants us to **belong to a church family.***

**Romans 12:4** Just as our bodies have many parts & each part has a special function, 5 so it is w/ Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, & ***we all belong to each other.***

**\*God sets His children in families.**

### ***3 Reasons Why We Belong to a Church Family:***

**1. *A church family helps us focus on God.*** It's easy to get distracted by details, disturbances, dead-ends, delays, & difficulties. But coming together w/ your church family will help you focus on Jesus. The more we choose to focus on Jesus, the bigger He gets in our minds & the smaller our problems become.

**2. *A church family helps us face life's problems.*** Life is a series of problems that God never meant for us to handle on our own. That's why He built a support group of people around us-**the church**-who are right here in the fight w/ you. Those of us who are *bound*, He sets free & puts us in families. We're in this together. You're not alone.

**3. A church family helps us fortify our faith.** When we're in relationship w/ other people in God's family, we get the right support. They encourage us to create right priorities, helping us decide what's trivial & what matters most. Our church family helps us clarify our values & fortify our faith.

*Being grounded in a **local church** is vital to spiritual & emotional health.*

**Psalm 92:13 NKJV** Those who are planted in the house of the Lord - Shall flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They'll still bear fruit in old age; They'll be fresh & flourishing,

*\*\*As we're planted in God's house, the Church of Jesus, we can be flourishing in all areas of our life & able to love others because of it.*