

The ABC's of the Christ-Centered Life

I. What is the chief aim and purpose of a follower of Jesus Christ?

To love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:34-39; Matthew 6:33; Matthew 7:12; Philippians 3:10; 1 John 5:2,3

II. What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is a Person. That Person is Jesus Christ. The Gospel is more than information about Him. The Gospel is God personally expressing Himself in the person of Jesus. To preach the Gospel is to preach Jesus Christ. When you have "Christ in you", you have all of His fullness. He "Himself" is the "Good News". John 1: 1,14; Colossians 1 & 2; 1 Corinthians 2:2; Mark 1:1.

"The gospel begins with Jesus not with God. Apart from Jesus you know little or nothing about God, and what you know is (often) wrong. If you don't see God in the face of Jesus, you see something other than God and different. Jesus is the self revelation of God." E. Stanley Jones.

"This is the work of God that you trust in Him whom He sent." John 6:28-29

III. What did Jesus say are some of the characteristics observable in the life of a follower of Jesus Christ?

- 1) A person who puts Jesus Christ before others. Luke 14:26a
- 2) A person who takes up their cross and follows Christ. Luke 14:26b
- 3) A person who puts Jesus Christ before self. Luke 14:26b
- 4) A person who puts Jesus Christ before possessions. Luke 9:25; Luke 14:33
- 5) A person of prayer. Luke 11:1-13; Luke 18:1-8
- 6) A person who takes the Scriptures seriously. Matthew 4:4; Luke 8:11-15
- 7) A person who abides 'in Jesus Christ' therefore naturally produces fruit which is a life of sacrificial love for one another. John 15:7-8, 12-13, 15b
- 8) A person who takes seriously Jesus' words: "As you go, make disciples of all nations..." Matthew 28:16-20
- 9) A person who loves the brothers and sisters. John 13:34-35
- 10) A person who is at one and unified in spirit, heart and mind with others in the family of Jesus of Nazareth. John 17:20-22
- 11) A person of faith. Matthew 17:19-20; Matthew 18:19-20
- 12) A person who lives and works under the authority and direction of the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8

IV. What is the true work of God?

"This is the work of God that you trust in Him whom He sent." John 6:28-29

V. Why did Jesus select twelve men and a few women to follow Him?

- 1) To be "with them".
- 2) To mentor (disciple them).
- 3) To develop a band of men and women to carry on the work of Jesus on Earth. John 17

