

## Proof of Discipleship; John 15:5-8

- I. Pews
  - A. There are people (Christians) who equate Christianity with the church building
  - B. The thought process is that Christianity is coming to the building on Sunday morning for service
  - C. That is a passive understanding of Christianity and it is incorrect
    - 1. Jesus tells his disciples (and us) to go and teach (as you are going, preach the Gospel)
    - 2. We have traded that for “come and hear”
    - 3. It is a good thing to invite people to come worship with us, but that should not be the extent of our teaching
  - D. We must abide in the vine (Jesus)
- II. Abide
  - A. To remain, stay (BDAG)
  - B. John 15:4-10
  - C. The idea of remaining or staying in Jesus is used 10 times in 7 verses
  - D. Romans 6:1–3 (ESV); <sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
  - E. We cannot remain in our old life and still claim to follow Jesus
  - F. We have to choose, our old life without Jesus or our new life with Him
    - 1. We must completely change our way of thinking
    - 2. Philippians 4:8–9 (ESV); <sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.
    - 3. Titus 2:11–14 (ESV); <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.
    - 4. We must completely change our behavior
    - 5. Titus 3:1–2 (ESV); <sup>1</sup> Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, <sup>2</sup> to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.
    - 6. Ready – like setting the table for a meal before it is served
    - 7. You are ready, prepared to eat

- 8. Ephesians 2:10 (ESV); <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
- G. To Abide in Jesus is to change your way of thinking and your behavior
- III. To Become
  - A. Prove – a verb with numerous nuances relating to being and manner of being (BDAG)
  - B. To come into a certain state or possess certain characteristics, to be, prove to be, turn out to be (BDAG)
  - C. “By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and **become** my disciples” – change from one state to another, from not being a disciple to being a disciple
  - D. Matthew 7:15-23
  - E. Jesus uses the idea of bearing fruit (good works) 7 times in 6 verses
    - 1. John the Baptist tells the crowds to bear fruit in keeping with repentance
    - 2. Luke 3:10–14 (ESV); <sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” <sup>11</sup> And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” <sup>12</sup> Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” <sup>13</sup> And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”
    - 3. This fruit is what Jesus is talking about when He says, “you are the light of the world” – fruit equals good works
    - 4. Good works are what we were created for! (Ephesians 2:10)
  - F. We must change from who we were to who God wants us to be
  - G. Titus 3:3–7 (ESV); <sup>3</sup> For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
  - H. We must become a people who desire, eager, look for opportunities to let our light shine – to do good works, becoming a disciple of Christ
- IV. Become Disciples
  - A. Christianity was never designed to be passive
  - B. Change your way of thinking
  - C. Change your behavior
  - D. Christ, over and over again, admonishes and encourages us to show our love, our Christianity to those around us
  - E. People don’t care what you know till they know that you care