



LEGACY 20/20

Celebrating Our Past and Securing Our Future: Souls, Sites, Stewardship and Succession

DAY 1 - A CHRISTIAN IS A DISCIPLE

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Luke 10:27

We speak today of “Christ’s disciples.” Most of us could recall the names of many of the original twelve disciples who followed Jesus throughout His ministry, but I doubt that many could give a job description of the “calling.”

The disciples came from varied backgrounds, possessed differing personalities and exhibited varying temperaments. They differed from one another and even with one another yet we are Christians today because of their faithfulness. They obeyed His command to “go into all the world and make disciples.” (Matthew 28:19) We are Christians today because of their obedience, their discipleship.

“Disciple.” What a wonderful and meaningful name for those of us who follow Christ today and bear His name. The term literally means “a student”, “a, pupil”, “a learner” of a teacher, in this case of Jesus the Christ.

In the New Testament it is a common term. It is used over 250 times in the gospels and over 70 times in Matthew’s gospel alone. A disciple is one who follows, listens to, learns from and acts like Jesus.

A disciple is one who is a pupil of Christ. In fact Jesus said, “Take my yoke upon you and learn of me.” (Matthew 11:29) This is a continual process. It begins when one says, “yes” to Jesus’ invitation to salvation and continues into glory. It is living under the Lordship of Christ.

What then are we to learn of Christ?

1. We must learn to love as He loved.

He was the embodiment of love, the love of God in human form. This is what John 3:16 means, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son.” It is what Jesus meant when He said, “Greater love hath no man than this that he lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)



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He made the supreme demonstration of this love when He went to the cross of Calvary and gave His life in love. Paul interprets this for us in Romans 5:8- “God commended His love toward us in that while we were sinners Christ died for us.”

Charles Wesley on the first anniversary of his conversion wrote this wonderful hymn to express his love for the one who loved him enough to die for him:

*O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of his grace!*

As His disciples we must learn to love Him and others as He loves us. Listen to what our Teacher, our Lord, and our Savior says:

*John 13:34-35
A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another;
as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.
By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

In other words, if we experience this love we must express this love to those about us. It is the major distinguishing characteristic of a Christian. Remember Jesus said, “By this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you have love one to another,” (John 13:34-35) He didn’t say by our words, nor by our works, nor by our attendance at church, but by our love will the world know we are Christians.

He loved the unlovely, the down and out, the up and out, the diseased, the corrupt, the rich, the poor, and everyone in between. In turn we must love these and one another just as Jesus loved. We must learn to love as Jesus loved.

He loved the church. The Scripture says that He “loved the church and gave himself for it.” We too must learn from Him to love the church and to show it in our worship, our service, our support and our sacrifice. Our Legacy 20/20 emphasis is a manifestation of this love. Because we love Him and we love those who must be reached with His love and ministered to in His name we provide the facilities and services of our church. Our sacrificial giving is because of our love for Him and for those He loves.

Lord, I love you and look forward to walking with you in this journey to victory. Thank you for allowing me to be here!