

Are we truly Christ's disciples?

Luke 6:39 – 49

In this passage of scripture, the Lord speaks of three subjects, “Christians Judging Other Christians”, “Christians Being a Tree That Bears Fruit”, and last, Christians Building Our House on a Firm Rock. All three of these subjects speaks of a soul knowing whether they are saved or not. The world is full of people who believe when they die that will go to heaven, however, the truth is only a fraction of them are truly born again. Anyone who is not a disciple of Christ stands a real chance of not knowing Jesus Christ as their Saviour. While they are no way of us knowing for sure who is or who isn't, this is a gauge or measuring stick in which we are to measure true believers by. We are not judges and should never judge true and non-true believers by, but a gauge for people to measure themselves. However, true born-again believers should have these standards by which they themselves as real children of God.

A. As churches we must have some judgment.

1. Peter wrote in **1 Peter 4:16 - 17** “*Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. (17) For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*” – If a Christian is persecuted on the account of Christ, then there is confidence that a soul is saved.
2. Another judgment tool is their fruits. Jesus said, **Matthew 7:15 - 17** “*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. (16) Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? (17) Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.*”
3. Then the Lord profoundly put a period behind our judging in, **Matthew 7:20** “*Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*” – Fruits are proof, because a true believer brings forth good fruits and a lost person brings forth evil fruits. A mixed tree is likely saved; however, we must have some doubt.

B. A true believer is a disciple of Christ.

1. Jesus defined a disciple in the Great Commission. **Matthew 28:19 - 20** “*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the*

Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” A disciple, by definition of the Greek is – a biblical learner, that is, pupil of God’s word. – but it is also defined as “one who follows these biblical teachings.

2. There is a difference between learning and following.
 - a. Learning means - the acquisition of knowledge or skills through experience, study, or by being taught.
 - b. The word following basically means – coming after or following through with something you have learned; it is an action with a result. – ***or that is the best I can describe it.***
 - c. Therefore, as a church we teach newborn believers and they should follow that teaching in their life, if they do not then chances are they are not saved.
3. This is why Jesus said, **Luke 6:43 - 44** *“For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. (44) For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.”*
- C. A true disciple of Christ will obey the word of God. (Because that is our command).
 1. Jesus said to His own disciples, **John 8:31 - 32** *“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;** (32) And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* – If we follow Jesus and walk in the word of God, then our freedom is from Satan, the worldly and secular influence, it is free from sinfulness, it is a wonderful place to be.
 2. **Romans 8:4** *“That the righteousness of the law **might be fulfilled in us, who walk** not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”*
 3. **Gal. 5:25** *“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*
 4. We cannot obey God’s word if we fail to walk in God’s word. Jesus said in **John 6:26 - 27** *“Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. (27) Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.”*

- A. You cannot just see or hear the words believe and be saved; you must believe to be saved.
- B. We cannot walk and labor for unworthy things, our walk a Christians must be in things that we will take with us to heaven. **Luke 6:40** “*The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.*”
5. **John 14:23 - 24** “*Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words:** and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. (24) **He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings:** and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.*”
- D. A true disciple of Christ will be considerate of other Christians.
1. The word “considerate” of others means, “being careful not to cause inconvenience or hurt to others:”
 2. Love of each other causes us to be right. **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. (35) By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*”
 3. Being considerate of others is not being a hypocrite. If we are going to correct others, let's make sure that we do not need to be corrected.
 4. We are not hurting other believers but helping them. Being a true Christian is picking-up other Christians.
- E. Walk worthy of our salvation.
1. **Zechariah 1:3 - 4** “*Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. (4) Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the LORD.*”
 2. Any real Christian will hate sin and evil not accept it. God said, **1 Thessalonians 5:22 - 23** “*Abstain from all appearance of evil. (23) And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

3. We will desire to be blameless because of our love for the Lord. **John 14:23 - 24**
“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. (24) He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.”
4. We will be kind and considerate of other Believers. **James 2:8 - 9** *“If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: (9) But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.”*
5. We should be fruitful.
 - a. **Luke 3:8** *“Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.”* – That is for such fruits as will show it to be true and genuine of your repentance.
 - b. The stones are us Gentiles, even though we are Gentiles we are Abraham’s seed. offspring. **Galatians 3:29** *“And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”* We should be fruitful as much as we are blessed.
6. A blessed Christian should seek to please the Lord, to be a Christ-like believer. God should not have to rebuke and chastise us to do His will and walk as His own son did.
 - a. John wrote in **1 John 1:3 – 4** *“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. (4) And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.”*