



Following Christ



8 studies from Philippians on what it means to be a disciple.

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Our vision is to see lives transformed by Jesus. As we see how good it is to follow Jesus we will see how he transforms us to become more like him in many different ways

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Following Christ

Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said:

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Mark 8:34

Being a Christian means being a disciple of Christ, following Him and being transformed into his image.

Prayer: Dear Lord, please transform me more and more into the image of your Son Jesus each day.

8. Content in Christ

Share: In what ways does society tempt us to be discontent?

Read Philippians 4:10-23

1. Where does Paul find true contentment in v.13?(see also 4:7-9, 1:21, 3:10-11)

2. What practical steps can you take in order to be content in 'any and every situation'?

3. What do verses 14-18 tell us about the generosity shown by Christians in Philippi?

4. How should we 'share in the troubles' of fellow Christians today?

5. Does verse 19 mean that Christians will never be in financial difficulty? Why or why not?

6. What is encouraging about the way Paul ends his letter? (v.20-23)

Transform: How would this make you more like Christ?

1. Confident in Christ

Share: How would you explain 'discipleship' in your own words?

Read Philippians 1:1-11

1. According to 1:6, what confidence should we have as Christians?

2. In the middle of daily life, why is verse 6 sometimes hard to believe?

3. What can we hold onto when we lack confidence in our salvation?

4. What difference should this confidence make to our lives?

5. What is the result of God's "good work in you" and when will it be complete? (verses 6, 10,11)

Transform: How would this make you more like Christ?

2. Living in Christ

Share: How would you answer "For me to live is..."

Read Philippians 1:12-26

1. What pressures did Paul face that may have led him to put his own desires first? (Phil 1:13, 15-17, 23)
2. What was his attitude to these pressures and why?
3. How might our circumstances, reputation or future plans affect our desires to tell others about Christ?
4. How would the people of Palm Beach/Avalon finish this sentence "For me to live is..."
5. How would you put 'to live is Christ and to die is gain' into your own words? How would you live that out?

Transform: How would this make you more like Christ?

7. Rejoicing in Christ

Share: Is it unrealistic to say 'Rejoice in the Lord always'(4:4)?

Read Philippians 4:2-9

1. When it's hard what practical steps can we take to help us 'rejoice always'?
2. Why will knowing 'the Lord is near' (v.5) make us more gentle?
3. What action should we take when we are anxious, and why?(v.6-7)
4. What does it mean to pray 'with thanksgiving' (verse 6)? What does this help us to guard against?
5. Write down the opposites of all the descriptive words Paul uses in verse 8? If you dwell on such things, what effect would it have on you?
6. How will you act upon Paul's command in verse 8?

Transform: How will this make you more like Christ?

6. Knowing Christ

Share: Can you really know Christ?

Read Philippians 3:10-4:1

1. How does Paul want to know Christ(v.10-11)?
2. What is the 'one thing' Paul does according to v.12-14) and why?
3. From v.12-16 what might hinder us from pressing on? What should encourage us?
4. Why is it important to choose the right role-models(see v.17-19)?
5. Look at verse 19, how do people behave in these ways today?
6. What are the sharp contrasts between the descriptions in v.19 and in v.20-21?
7. In the middle of daily life what does it mean for you to know that your 'citizenship is in heaven'(v.20) and that Christ will return?

Transform: How will this make you more like Christ?

3. Standing together in Christ

Share: All a Christian needs is God. Discuss.

Read Philippians 1:27-2:11

1. What does it mean to conduct ourselves 'in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ'(v.27)?
2. What opportunities to do you have to "contend" for the gospel by sharing your faith with others?
3. In verses 28-30 Paul makes some surprising statements. From these verses what should we remember when we face opposition?
4. What does it mean to stand together(v.2:2)
5. What will it mean in practice for us to 'consider others better' than ourselves(v.2:3)?
6. As we stand together how can we have the same mindset as Christ Jesus (v.5-11)?

Transform: How will this make you more like Christ?

4. Transformed by Christ

Share: When people look at our lives, what do they see?

Read Philippians 2:12-30

1. What does it mean in practice for you 'to work out your salvation with fear and trembling'(v.12)?
2. After the challenge of v.12, why should Paul's next words inspire confidence in his readers?
3. In what ways are you aware of God transforming you or other Christians you know?
4. According to verses 15&16 what makes us 'shine like stars'?
5. What is more necessary, to tell people the gospel or to live a godly life among them? Why?
6. What do we learn about Timothy and his priorities from verses 19-30? What insight do we get into Epaphroditus' attitude and motivation?
7. Why does Paul mention these two men at this point in the letter?(see 2:4-5)

Transform: How will this make you more like Christ?

5. Righteous in Christ

Share: Is God pleased with us?

Read Philippians 3:1-9

1. In 3:5-6 Paul lists impressive religious credentials. What similar things do people today think will make them right with God?
2. How had Paul's attitude changed? (v.7-8)
3. What does it mean as Christians to 'consider everything a loss'?
4. How would you explain verse 9 to a non-christian friend?
5. How do you get that righteousness?
6. If we rely on ourselves what does that say about our view of Christ?

Transform: How will this make you more like Christ?