

Elders:

Rufus Barfield * Donnie McDaniel

Deacons:

Paul Byas * Chris Gorham * Antoine Holloway
Michael Myrick * Sheldon Smith

Evangelist:

Antoine Holloway

Worship Times:

Sunday Bible Study/9:30AM Sunday Morning Worship/10:30AM
Sunday Evening Worship/6:00PM Wednesday Bible Study/7:30PM

Meetings:

Monday Sermon Recap

January 23rd @ 7:00pm

Elders/Deacons Meeting

February 5th @ 5:00pm

Saturday Discipleship Class

February 4th @ 9:00am

Women's Thursday Bible Study

March 15th @ 7:00pm

2012 Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Albert Dickson of Cincinnati, Ohio

April 12th-15th, 2012

2012 Vacation Bible School – Theme: TBA

June 18th-22nd, 2012 – Speaker: Brandon Trout of Severn, Maryland

2012 Summer Lectureship – Remaining Faithful & Enabled For The Ministry

August 1st-5th, 2012

Prayer Requests (Continuing Health Problems)

Andrew Madison * Bruce McDonald * Latrice Morrison * Isaac Parker * Lewis & Ann Wise

Prayer Request (Unable To Attend Services Here)

Anne Harrison * Steven Chung * Carlos Vargas * Bruce McDonald

Prayer Request (Traveling)

Emma Jean Barfield

Prayer Requests

Additional Announcements

- Please look at the directory. If your entry is incomplete (Name, Address, Birthday, Anniversary, Home Phone, Cell Phone, Email, & Photo), then please let **Antoine Holloway** know ASAP. Thanks.
- **Leadership Class will be on Saturday, January 28th @ 9:00AM.**
- Chronological Bible Reading Conference Call – See **Damon Long**

Contribution & Attendance Figures

January 15 th	\$4,149-Contribution	131-Attendance
January 8 th	\$4,638-Contribution	146-Attendance

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Hear The Gospel (Acts 15:7) * Believe In Jesus (Acts 8:12) * Repent Of Our Sins (Acts 3:19) * Confess Christ To Be The Son Of God (Acts 8:37) * Be Baptized In Water (Acts 22:16) * Remain Faithful (Acts 2:42)

TODAY'S DATE: January 22, 2012

**Wildercroft
CHURCH OF CHRIST**



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"A Going Church For A Coming Lord" – Romans 16:16

The Concept Of Discipleship: Identifying With The Person Of Christ

What does it mean to identify with the person of Christ? What is the goal that is to be accomplished as a result of successfully identifying with Him? What are we to learn about discipleship from the scriptural text of **Matthew 10:24-25**? What attributes must the Christian have that shows their identity with the Master? These are all questions that will be answered throughout this article.

In the article last week, we discovered the concept of discipleship. The concept of discipleship is a general idea of that developmental process centered in the local church that seeks to bring believers from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity in such a way they are able to repeat the process with someone else. We learned it comprises of at least three major aspects:

- Identifying With The Person Of Christ
- Identifying With The Persecutions Of Christ
- Identifying With The Purposes Of Christ

We will deal solely with identifying with the person of Christ.

What does it mean to identify with the person of Christ? Jesus gives us some insight as to what it means to identify, especially in the realm of discipleship. Listen to your Bible! In **Matthew 10:24-25**, the Bible reads, "**A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, & the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household?**" Before we actually get into the identification, there are a couple of things in regards to discipleship an individual must comprehend as they count the cost:

- 1) The disciple is not above his teacher. Therefore, as disciples of Jesus Christ, we will never be above Him.
- 2) The disciple should be satisfied in just being like his teacher. Therefore, as disciples of Jesus Christ, we should be content in just being like Him.
- 3) The disciple will receive the same congrats & criticisms as the teacher. Therefore, if people love Christ, they will love you, but if people hate Christ, then they will also hate you. This is unavoidable, no matter how hard we may try.

As **Matthew 10:24-25** teaches, when we identify with the person of Christ, we should live with the determination of being just like Jesus. As Christians, the goal is to become so much like King Jesus, when people hear us & see us, they will actually hear & see the Christ in us. There is much debate about the physical appearance of Jesus. However, God does not want us to focus on the ethnicity of Christ, but rather the eternity one can have through Christ. I have said on many occasions, if you want to see a picture of Christ, then all we have to do is observe the life of a true disciple

of His. For this reason alone, discipleship demands a total identity with Jesus.

The apostle Paul spoke a little bit about identifying with the person of Christ. Thus, showing us why this is an important concept in discipleship. Listen to your Bible! In **Colossians 3:1-2**, the Bible reads, "**If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.**" Jesus remained faithful to His calling throughout His entire time here on earth & He did not leave here until He was finished (**John 19:30**). What is so amazing is Jesus endured many hardships, in which ordinary people would have opted out of. Yet today, we have individuals in the Lord's church who will give up on God because things in the church did not go their way, or times are hard, or somebody did not shake their hand, & the list goes on. When individuals walk away from Christ, rather than follow Him all the way to the end, then these persons were not disciples of the Lord. The true disciple becomes a human duplicate of the Christ, not an exact duplicate because we have sinned (**Romans 3:23**), but we get to a point in our lives in which we are either sinless or we sin less.

When we really embrace the concept of discipleship in identifying with Christ, we understand discipleship is for life. A true disciple of Jesus can live in a perverse & crooked generation without surrendering to his or her demonic & damnable surroundings, for his or her mind is fixed on another place. Hence, to identify with Jesus is to live our lives totally focused on heaven. Jesus was fixated on saving our souls, doing the will of His Father, & returning back to heaven. If Jesus had sinned, then He would have failed in all three objectives, but thank God He did not. As disciples of Jesus, we have identified with His person when we do not fall victim to every wind of doctrine & the immorality constantly being displayed around us. We have identified with the person of Jesus, when we are all about saving the lost, doing the will of God, & making the necessary steps in the direction of heaven. When we fail in this objective, then we have not identified with the person of Christ.

As we end with identifying with the person of Christ, we must make our Christianity & convictions public. Jesus was public about who He represented. In **John 18:20**, Jesus said, "**I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues & in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret.**" Therefore, we must go public through evangelism & spiritual education for & about the One we are following, who is Christ Jesus. "**What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, & what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.**" (**Matthew 10:27**). As a result of this, we must be prepared to go through some things, not because of who we are, but because of whose we are.

- Antoine N. Holloway