

For Calvary Chapel: Walking the Path of True Discipleship: Embracing God's Love in Every Step

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1 Introduction:

The path of discipleship is not simply a one-time decision but an unyielding commitment to walking as Jesus did, with every thought, feeling, word, and action echoing His profound love and mercy. The heart of this journey is not about achieving perfection but persistently striving, repenting, and turning to God, especially in our moments of weakness. "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." (Luke 9:23)

2 Trusting in God's Provision:

Placing our full trust in God is the cornerstone of a life rooted in faith. Amidst life's storms and uncertainties, it is easy to waver and rely on our understanding. But Jesus, our ultimate guide, teaches us a different path. He tells us to first seek the Kingdom of God and assures that when we do, all our needs will be met. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matthew 6:33)

3 Embracing the Divine Within and Beyond:

Our spiritual journey is illuminated when we recognize God's divine presence within us (1 Cor 3:16) and in every facet of His creation. This profound understanding of being a temple housing God's Spirit inspires genuine discipleship, where love for God and His creations become inseparable. Jesus's greatest commandment, to love God with every fiber of our being, encompasses love for all His works, from our fellow humans to the

serene beauty of nature. "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37)

4 Serving One Another with Humility:

True discipleship extends beyond our personal relationship with God; it permeates our interactions with family, friends, and the wider community. Understanding the divine in others inspires us to humbly use our gifts to serve them, embodying Christ's teachings and love in every interaction. "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10)

5 Embracing Forgiveness, Love, and Acceptance:

Forgiveness, love, and acceptance form the bedrock of our Christian journey. Jesus taught us to "forgive seventy times seven" (Matthew 18:22), illustrating the boundless nature of divine mercy. This forgiveness is not limited to the actions of others but extends to our own thoughts, feelings, and missteps. It is through understanding and compassion that we can embrace every part of ourselves and others, even when faced with imperfections and mistakes. Allowing us to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31),

6 An Unyielding Love

Our charge is clear: to love and be kind without exception. As God's representatives on Earth, our words and actions must reflect His boundless love, encompassing every being without discrimination. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34)

7 Closing:

Our walk as disciples is a lifetime journey, marked by highs and lows. Yet, with every step, we are called to embody the teachings of Jesus, holding onto our commitment to love, kindness, and repentance. This is our life's mission until the Bridegroom comes, and by His grace, we are empowered to walk this path. "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." (Matthew 25:21)

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