

Following Christ – Why Are You Doing This?



Slice FO

Why are you Doing This?

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1 Memory Verse

Romans 1:16 (ESV)

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

2 Knowledge of the Son of God

The Hebrew understanding throughout the Scriptures is that all knowledge comes from God. The Lord is the greatest of all teachers and all wisdom and learning should begin with the 'fear of the Lord'.

The aim under the New Covenant is to know the Son of God. This learning leads to praising and giving thanks to God the Father in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

2.1 Equip the Saints for the Work of Ministry

Ephesians 4:11–13 (ESV)

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry**, for building up the body of Christ, **13** until we all attain to the **unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.**

- Equip the saints;
- Unity of the faith;
- Knowledge of the Son of God;
- Mature manhood;
- Measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

2.2 Entrustment

2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV)

2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses **entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.**

- Entrust to faithful men (men and women);
- Who can teach others;
- Encouragement to raise you up to teach others.

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2.3 Foundations of the Church

Acts 2:42–47 (ESV)

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. **43** And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. **44** And all who believed were together and had all things in common. **45** And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. **46** And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, **47** praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

They were devoted; meaning they continued steadfastly to the matters of importance:

2.3.1 Devoted to the Apostles' Teaching – The Word

They devoted themselves to all of Jesus' earthly teachings, His teachings after his resurrection, and the teachings through His apostles. This included the Old Testament Scriptures and the revelation of Christ in the New Testament Scriptures.

2.3.2 Devoted to the Fellowship

They devoted themselves to participation and sharing (Gk. Koinonia) translated fellowship.

2.3.3 Devoted to the Breaking of Bread

They devoted themselves to the Lord's Supper, larger fellowship meals and walking in covenantal relationship with and in Christ, and with one another.

2.3.4 Devoted to Prayer

They devoted themselves to prayers individually, together in house meetings, and in the collective congregation.

2.3.5 Generosity

The devotion to sharing of material goods and time.

2.3.6 Praising God and Having Favour with all People

This devotion was created in a devotion to the Lord that resulted in praising God and they consequently found favour with all people.

2.3.7 The Lord Added to Their Number Being Saved

As the natural consequence of their devotion, they carried a testimony of Christ. Many people were influenced, and many men and women were saved and added to the Church.

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3 False Teachers - Perverters of Grace

Jude 3–4 (ESV)

3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to **contend for the faith** that was once for all delivered to the saints. **4** For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, **who pervert the grace of our God** into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Believers can be deceived by those who pervert the message of the gospel of Christ's grace. We are encouraged to contend for the faith, to not deviate and to be found faithful.

4 Bear Much Fruit

John 15:1–5 (ESV)

1 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser (Gardener). **2** Every branch in me that does **not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.** **3** Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. **Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.**

John 15:8 (ESV)

8 By this my Father is glorified, **that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.**

Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Our testimony of Christ is to bear much fruit of Christ - the Vine. As we bear much fruit, we prove to be His disciples.

5 Practice These Qualities

2 Peter 1:3–11 (ESV)

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, **4** by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. **5** For this very reason, make every effort to supplement

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your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, **6** and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, **7** and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. **8** For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. **10** Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, **for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.** **11** For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

There is continual improvement of the qualities of Christ in us. As we practise these with increasing measure, we will be kept from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

6 What are Your Expectations?

Write down your **Big Five Expectations** on committing to and attending 'Following Christ'.

1

2

3

4

5

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7 Proclamation

'I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, for myself, my neighbours, and the peoples of the nations'.

8 Prayer

'Father as I commit myself to the teaching of Your Word through this tool called 'Following Christ'. I ask that my witness of You will grow and have great influence in and through me in Christ Jesus to impact others, my community, my nation, and the nations of the earth'.