

The Question of Discipleship

What does it take to become a disciple of Jesus Christ? Are there certain qualifications for one to have, or skills for one to acquire, in order to become a disciple of Christ? For example, does a person have to be knowledgeable about the bible and quote scripture passages in order to be a disciple of Christ? Or does a person need to be persuasive, skilled in argumentation and articulate? People often make the mistake that those qualities and skills are necessary in order to be a good disciple; and yet, Jesus tells us that only one thing is needed: love for Him. Jesus said, “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 10:37-39) Luke’s version is even more intense: “If any one comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:26-27)



The only thing needed to be a good disciple of Christ is to love Him – to love Him more than father or mother, wife or children, brothers or sisters, to the extent that one takes up his own cross and follows Him.

Jesus said to His disciples, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments (Jn 14:15).” To love Jesus is to observe His commandments, which includes observing the Ten Commandments. Observing the Ten Commandments is part of keeping Jesus' commandments because Jesus did not

abolish the Old Law; rather, He “fulfilled” it by expanding its application to include the heart. For example, “you shall not kill” means not to harbor anger against others (cf. Mt 5:21-26), and “you shall not commit adultery” means guarding one's mind and heart against lust (cf. Mt 5:27-30).

Christian tradition teaches us that loving Jesus brings about a better family life because our love for Jesus can guide our family relationships. A home where children honor their parents by treating them with respect and valuing what they do and what they say is a home that is blessed by God. On the other hand, St. Paul teaches Christian parents on how to love their children: “Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged (Col 3:21);” and “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up with the training and instruction of the Lord (Eph 6:4).” In the same way, a home where parents love their children with proper guidance and discipline is a home blessed by God.

There will be times when conflicts arise within the family and with others due to opposing ideas and convictions. However, if we put Jesus first, then there should be no compromise on the truth as revealed by Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. In the event that we are compelled to compromise what we believe as Christians, then our only choice is to love Jesus by remaining faithful to Him and observing His commandments.

How many opportunities do we have, on a regular basis, to demonstrate to ourselves and to others that Jesus is more than just an occasional distraction for us? We can talk all we want about loving Jesus, but if everything else – work, family, social media, vacation, having a good time with friends, etc. takes precedence over attending Mass on Sunday, then Jesus must not be that important to us. You may ask, “What does

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attending Mass have to do with Jesus?” Mass is the central act of Christian worship for Catholics; it has everything to do with Jesus – it is a memorial of His life, death, and resurrection, and a real-time encounter with Him through scripture, prayer, and the Eucharist. Receiving the Body and Blood, soul and divinity of Christ in the Eucharist is the most direct way that we can be intimately united with Him. Being a disciple of Christ is not just about thinking of Jesus every now and then, when it’s convenient or when it fits our schedule, or if we are not busy on a Sunday. Being a disciple of Christ takes time and commitment to honor Him and to follow Him, wherever He may be – and He is always in the Eucharist.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will give a warm sendoff to our Chinese Cursillo members as they go to participate in the 49th Chinese Cursillo weekend in Dallas, TX from July 2 to 5. We will send them off with our prayers and blessing.

Please come and join us in the social hall after the 10:30am Mass for cake and ice-cream to celebrate the 17th anniversary of Fr. Bill’s ordination to the priesthood.

The Archdiocese of Atlanta has launched its “Rooted in Christ – Growing in Faith” campaign to raise funds for the programs and activities of the Archdiocese. Each parish and mission church in the Archdiocese is expected to participate with their individual goals. The Archdiocese has designated our parish goal of \$60,000, and has scheduled our parish to begin with a preparation period from January to March 2027 and actual campaign period from April to September 30, 2027.

Did you know that you can make donations to the church directly from your retirement account? Each time you make a distribution from your retirement account, it is counted as taxable income. However, if you make a donation (up to \$108,000), to qualified charities through QCD (Qualified Charitable Distributions), these donations, although not tax-deductible, are excluded from taxable income. Many older retired donors use this strategy to lower their taxable income, but it also satisfies Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) without increasing their adjusted gross income (AGI). Consult your financial advisor or contact your retirement account specialist.

Prayer List: Jasmine Ho, Michael Tan, Bian Meiyi, Chen Shupeng, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing and Xu Taicheng.

Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	By Appointment	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)		
	Anointing of the Sick	Eucharistic Adoration
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Sundays 9:00 to 10:00 AM
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	First Fridays after 6:30 PM Mass	
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)		
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 6:30 PM (English)		