

SOPC Word of the Month

July 13, 2022

This is the first of a series called "Word of the Month", a ReShape initiative to help us better understand frequently used words in the life of a Christian. An email will be sent out weekly to our members to provide more clarity and examples of how the word is used.

Disciple/ Discipleship

On July 3, Pastor Jana preached about discipleship. She defined four characteristics that to her, defined what a disciple was.

- A disciple is a follower of Jesus
- A disciple is a learner
- A disciple loves Jesus
- A disciple is one who has made Christ our true measure of life and values.

This week, we will elaborate on the "follower" characteristic, followed during the balance of July with the remaining characteristics.

First of all, a disciple is one who follows Jesus. When our world is so dark, so heavy, so painful that we cannot see the future, Jesus is calling us to follow. "Take up your cross and follow me!" he says. And if there is a secret to the Christian life, it is the secret of daily renewal, of daily taking up the cross to follow Him. In 2 Corinthians, Paul wrote "The inward man is renewed day by day" ([2 Corinthians. 4:16, KJV](#)).

Following Christ is a matter of living each day, trying to walk in His footsteps--we follow to become a disciple.

This may sound simple at first, but to fully understand Christ's ministry and his proclamation of the coming of the Kingdom of God is a lifetime endeavor. Certainly, there are the visible acts that Christ performed while here on earth that we must seek to master, such as: humility, reaching out to the poor and needy, teaching others how to be disciples, confronting unfair practices, avoiding mis-placed religious fervor (like Jesus did with the Pharisees), enjoying fellowship with one another, loving unconditionally. But then, there are also the mysterious, "hidden" aspects of Jesus that require discernment with the help of the Holy Spirit, such as: understanding the parables, corporate and individual prayer and meditation, miracles, being one with Christ, the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.

Seven Oaks is here to help you understand and practice discipleship by providing opportunities for you to follow Jesus.

"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand." John 10: 27-28