



SBAOC Weekly Update

NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have any news, prayer requests, or events that you would like to have included in this update, please email the information to spurgeonassociation@gmail.com or call us at 785-456-8513.

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

By Anthony Carter

The Bible reminds us that the early followers of Jesus Christ were first called Christians as the testimony and witness of the faith came to the city of Antioch (Acts 11:25). Though it initially was likely a term of derision, the followers of Christ soon embraced the designation Christian because it openly and unashamedly identified them with Christ. But before the title of Christian was widely accepted, what were the early followers of Christ called? They were simply called “disciples.” Disciple was the preferred reference for believers. But what is a disciple?

In short, a disciple is a student. A disciple is one who disciplines himself in the teachings and practices of another. The word disciple, like discipline, comes from the Latin word *discipulus*, meaning “pupil” or “learner.” Consequently, to learn is to discipline oneself. For example, if one is to advance in the arts or the sciences or athletics, one has to discipline himself and to learn and follow the principles and fundamentals of the best teachers

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PURPOSE STATEMENT:

We unite as an association of Southern Baptist churches in order to manifest the glory of God above all. We purpose to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. We covenant to strengthen and support one another, motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

“If there is no church... should you not commence one?” C. H. Spurgeon

COMMENTS ON OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

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“Focusing on Christ and having Christ as on the forefront of my mind and the goal of my life is incredibly important. But what I have found to be most helpful in that are the Scriptures. Because from Genesis to Malachi in the Old Testament, from Matthew to Revelation on the pages of the New Testament, we have revealed for us Christ Jesus.”

Anthony Mathenia

“The Christian life is all about Christ. It’s all about His beauty, His loveliness, His glory, the wonder of such a person.”

Andrew Davies

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in that area of study. So it was and is with the disciples of Christ. A disciple follows Jesus.

When Jesus called His first disciples, He spoke the simple words, “Follow me” (Mark 1:17; 2:14; John 1:43). A disciple is a follower, one who trusts and believes in a teacher and follows that teacher’s words and example. Therefore, to be a disciple is to be in a relationship. It is having an intimate, instructive, and imitative relationship with the teacher. Consequently, being a disciple of Jesus Christ is being in relationship with Jesus—it is seeking to be like Jesus. In other words, we follow Christ to be like Christ (1 Cor. 11:1) because as His disciples, we belong to Christ. The disciple of Jesus has certain traits that are commensurate with a relationship with Jesus. What are the qualities of a disciple of Christ? What are the traits of those who follow and are called disciples of Christ?

A Disciple Listens to Jesus

No one can say he is a disciple of a teacher unless he is ready to listen to that teacher. The world is awash in teachers vying for listeners and followers. Listening to Jesus is what a Christian disciple does. When Jesus speaks, the disciple listens. The disciple hangs on every word of the Master as if that word were bread for the hungry or water for the thirsty. When Jesus gathered with His disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration, God the Father spoke from heaven with a clear command: “This is my Son, whom I love . . . listen to him” (Matt. 17:5). You cannot be a Christian and not listen to Jesus.

A Disciple Learns from Jesus

Listening to Jesus is not enough. A disciple does not listen and then turn away as if the teacher’s words have no impact. When Jesus calls His disciples, He calls them to learn as well as to listen. When they come, He says, “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (11:29). The disciple is a learner, and the words of Christ carry weight with him. When Jesus

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Southeast Founders

Conference—January 3-5. Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral, Florida. Theme: *Do Justice — Love Kindness — Walk Humbly*. Speakers include Voddie Baucham, Josh Buice, Tom Ascol, and Jared Longshore. Early registration pricing through Dec. 6. Go to founders.org/events/ for information.

Deep South Regional Founders Conference—

January 24-26. Bethlehem Baptist Church in Laurel, MS. Theme: The Doctrine of Sanctification. Main Speaker: Conrad Mbewe. Go to founders.org/events/ for information.

Southern Baptist Founders Conference Midwest—

February 26 & 27, 2019. First Baptist Church of Fenton in Fenton, MO. Theme: *Reformation in Today's Churches*. Speakers include Dr. Thomas Nettles & Dr. Owen Strachan. <https://sbfcmw.wordpress.com>

Saved By Faith Youth

Camp—June 17-21, 2019. Webster Conference Center, Salina, Kansas. Speaker: Dr. Jim Orrick. For more info go to www.sbfyckansas.com or send an email to trinitybaptistwamego@gmail.com.

Encouraged to Endure

Conference—July 25-27, 2019. Second Baptist Church, West Frankfort, IL. Speakers: Joseph Mahlaola, Larry McCall, & John Snyder. Worship Leader: Tom Clay.

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Christ weeded out the joyriders in John 6, He turned to the Twelve and asked, “Will you go away as well?” Peter, speaking on behalf of the others, replied: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God” (John 6:68–69). Learning from Christ is the disciple’s greatest desire. It is the foundation of all that he believes. He joyfully receives the words of his Master. They are his daily bread. He meditates upon them day and night (Ps. 1:2).

A Disciple Obeys Jesus

No one can truly call himself a disciple of Jesus who is not willing to obey Him. The disciple, the one who truly listens and learns, will put into practice what he learns. For the disciple, obedience is not optional. Jesus has proven Himself worthy of all obedience. Those who know Him best are most aware of this. When the wedding at Cana ran out of wine, Mary (Jesus’ mother) told the servants of the house to find Jesus and “do whatever he tells you” (John 2:5). That was great advice. Putting the Master’s teachings into practice is the fruit of true discipleship. Jesus Himself declared that those who love Him evidence their love for Him by keeping His commandments (14:21, 23; 15:10).

Some try to make a distinction between being a disciple and being a Christian. Yet, the Bible never makes such a distinction. Before they were called Christians, they were called disciples. Being a disciple of Christ is being a Christian. Being a Christian is trusting Christ. Being a Christian is listening to Christ. Being a Christian is learning from Christ. Being a Christian is obeying Christ. Consequently, being a Christian is being a disciple. It was that way in the beginning. It continues to be that way today.

Rev. Anthony Carter is pastor of East Point Church in East Point, Ga. He is author of several books, including *Blood Work*.

<https://tabletalkmagazine.com/article/2018/06/what-is-a-disciple/>

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PRAYER MEETINGS FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AND REVIVAL

- Fellowship Baptist Church in Onaga, Kansas—5:00 pm on Sundays
- Trinity Baptist Church in Wamego, Kansas—8:00 pm on Saturdays

The Spurgeon Baptist Association of Churches is an association of Southern Baptist Churches that are united to manifest the glory of God above all. We set out to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. As an association of churches we are bound in mutual covenant to strengthen and support one another - motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture - by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

We are a non-geographic association seeking to include any like-minded body of believers so that together we might better fulfill the great commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our intent is to lean on His instruction and not our imaginations so that He is honored in all that we do. We welcome churches who adhere to the confessions of faith accepted by Southern Baptists throughout their history, including, but not limited to, the Second London Confession (1689) and the Baptist Faith and Message.



Baptist Association of Churches