

Atlanta Chinese Christian Church North / English Ministries

Discussion questions for the sermon "Understanding Discipleship" on 7/3/2011

1. In the Bible, different terms are used to describe someone who has trusted Jesus Christ for salvation. Three popular terms are *believer*, *disciple*, and *saint*. Opinions abound regarding how these terms are related to each other. One popular teaching is that these three terms describe three levels of Christianity, where one begins as a believer, grows to become a disciple, and finally progresses to be a saint. Another popular teaching is that these three terms describe three aspects of the Christian life, so a Christian is simultaneously a believer and a disciple and a saint. What is your understanding of these three terms and their relationship to each other?

2. Which view does Pastor Jeff advocate in this sermon and what are his reasons? Which view is more biblical and why?

3. How would you evaluate yourself according to these three aspects of the Christian life? Give yourself a number from 1 to 10, where 1 represents horrible and 10 represents excellent.
 - a. The term "believer" emphasizes what we believe as Christians. Read 1 Peter 3:15. How are you doing in knowing why you believe what you believe?
 - b. The term "saint" emphasizes our desire to set ourselves apart to serve God's purpose. Read 1 Peter 1:15-16. How are you doing in desiring to serve God's purpose?
 - c. The term "disciple" emphasizes living out our Christian faith. Read James 2:17. How are you doing in living out your Christian faith?

4. Read Matthew 4:23-25; 8:18-22.
 - a. Why were crowds gathering around Jesus? Why do you think they wanted to follow Jesus?

- b. Why did the teacher of the law want to follow Jesus? Do you think that is a good reason to follow Jesus? Explain your answer.
 - c. Why did the person in 8:21-22 want to put off following Jesus? Do you think that is a good reason to put off following Jesus? Explain your answer.
5. Do you believe and follow Jesus? If your answer is yes, what is your reason for doing so? If your answer is no, what is your reason for not doing so?
 6. Towards the end of the sermon, Pastor Jeff talked about why anyone should believe and follow Jesus. According to Pastor Jeff, why should anyone believe and follow Jesus? Is this why you believe and follow Jesus?
 7. Does it matter whether we believe and follow Jesus for the right reason? Explain.
 8. How has this sermon impacted your understanding of the Christian faith? What questions do you have from this sermon? Write down your questions and submit them to Pastor Jeff.
 9. End this time with prayer. Ask God to help you grow as a believer and a disciple and a saint as you believe and follow Jesus for the right reason.