

The Jesus Lifestyle

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Disciple of the Greatest Life Ever Lived

You are a disciple of the greatest ever lived in human history. He was balanced in every way: emotionally, mentally, socially. He comported His life in the most beautiful of ways,¹ and was in essence a genius unlike any other.² Those who followed His life in the most specific ways have become quality human beings (Jn. 10:10), and found the ability to deal with life's pressures and issues through Him (Mt. 11:28-30; Jn. 14:27; 16:11). You are privileged to be His disciple and take on a quality of life he offers and a lifestyle He model (Jn. 10:10; Rom. 8:29; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21). Thus, it is incumbent to live like him: "Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did" (1 Jn. 2:6, New International Version, 1984); "in this world we are like Him" (1 Jn. 4:17, New International Version, 1984); "to live is Christ" (Philippians 1:21, New International Version, 1984). The Greek word for disciple is *mathetes*, which literally involves being a learner or apprentice of a trade a master-disciple relationship.³ We learn how to live this "trade of life" through Jesus (Jn. 14:6).

How to Actually Live Like Jesus

The question then is how do we actually become like Him; what is the process by which this happens?

¹ Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995); Charles Edward Jefferson, *The Character of Jesus* (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1936); William Barclay, *Jesus as They Saw Him* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1962); J. R. Stott, *The Incomparable Christ* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity, 2001).

² Erwin Raphael McManus, *The Genius of Jesus: The Man Who Changed Everything* (New York: Convergent, 2021).

³ R. K. Rengstorf, "Mathetes," *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, Gerhard Kittel, Ed., Geoffrey W. Bromiley, Translator and Editor (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1967), Vol. 4, pp. 417-26.

First, you must consciously imitate the life of Jesus (1 Cor. 2:16; Phil. 2:5; 1 Th. 1:6; 1 Pet. 2:21; 1 Jn. 2:6). This amounts to studying His life in Scripture and seeing how He dealt with people in various situations, and functioned in His walk with the Father. As Thomas a Kempis put it: “Let therefore our chief endeavor be to meditate upon the life of Jesus Christ.”⁴ He is the way to live your life.

Second, you must imitate the Jesus you see in others (1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 4:9; 1 Th. 1:6; Heb. 13:7). When I played basketball in high school and college, I carefully watched the moves of other ball players and often would imitate the “moves” that would make me a better ballplayer. Similarly, there are abundant “pro-level Jesus moves” in the church—people who live out the life of Christ on impeccable levels. Watch how someone loves others, pours his/her life out in serving others, prays, gives generously...and imitate those moves.

Third, yield to the Holy Spirit’s influence to transform you into the life of Jesus “from one degree of glory to the next” (2 Cor. 3:18). You must not resist this effort by the Holy Spirit to shape your life into something remarkable (Eph. 4:30; cf., Gal. 5:22-23). In fact, you were “predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His son” (Rom. 8:29, New International Version, 1984).

Jesus is called a “Wonderful Counselor” (Isa. 9:6 New American Standard Bible). Connecting with Him is the best thing you could do on this journey of life. He modeled the healthiest way to live, gave the best instructions, and meets your deepest needs on the deepest level. Imitate His life, imitate the Jesus you seen others, and yield to the Holy Spirit’s influence to shape you into the life of Christ.

⁴ Thomas a Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1486/1958), 11.

References

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