

Loris First Baptist Church
“Twelve Marks of a Mature Disciple of Christ”

TEST ELEVEN OF DISCIPLESHIP MATURITY

Characteristic #5 - “Voice for The Gospel”

A careful study of the transformation of the Apostle Paul, from a brand new Christian (Acts 9) into a mature disciple of Jesus Christ (Acts 28), reveals that there were six key “Christ-like” characteristics he exhibited which were developed through his spiritual growth after his salvation. The failure for a Christian to have and work on these characteristics will severely hinder his or her ability to display Christ-likeness as has been commanded by The Word of God (Luke 6:40; Matthew 16:24; 1Peter 2:21; 1John 2:3-6).

One characteristic of a disciple of Jesus Christ is that he or she will be able and active in sharing the gospel with those who need to hear it (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8). Paul understood that Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection on behalf of sinful man made a pathway for all mankind to be forgiven of their sins and to be reconciled to God (Romans 3:21-25). Paul also accepted the responsibility of being a “minister of reconciliation” by using the gospel to try to persuade all lost people to be saved (2Corinthians 5:18-21). Because Jesus has commanded all disciples to preach the gospel to the lost (Mark 16:15-16), Paul felt obligated to share it with everyone and was not ashamed to do it (Romans 1:14-16). So, as a disciple of Jesus Christ, do you have a VOICE FOR THE GOSPEL?

Directions: Please circle the number that best represents how you would rate yourself in response to each of the 12 questions and corresponding Scripture provided.

Scripture #1: *And he said unto them, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”*
(Mark 16:15-16)

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18)

Question #1: I know that as a disciple of Jesus Christ that I have the responsibility to be a witness for my Lord by sharing the gospel (i.e. “the good news” of what God has done to save mankind through their faith in Jesus). This gospel is to be shared verbally by me with those who need to hear it.

I Don't Understand this Concept I Sort Of Understand This Concept I Totally Understand This Concept

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Scripture #2: *Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)*

Question #2: I know the essential truths of “the gospel” and I have been trained to share the gospel with the lost whenever an opportunity arises.

This is Not True About Me		This is Sort of True About Me			This is Totally True About Me	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #3: *I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome. (Romans 1:14-15)*

Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. (1 Corinthians 9:16-17)

Question #3: Because the only way for a person to escape eternal punishment in hell is to place their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, I feel obligated and compelled to share the gospel with the lost.

This is Not True About Me		This is Sort of True About Me			This is Totally True About Me	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #4: *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. (Romans 1:16)*

For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord... (2 Timothy 1:7-8)

Question #4: I am not afraid to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those who need to hear it when the right opportunity presents itself.

This is Not True About Me		This is Sort of True About Me			This is Totally True About Me	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #5: *I speak the truth in Christ--I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit--I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, (Romans 9:1-3)*

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:10-11)

Question #5: I know that it was because of God’s love for me that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for my sins so that I could be saved. Since I know that I am saved, His love now gives me a burden to love others and do whatever I can to help others get saved. It truly breaks my heart and fills me with sorrow to know that many people around me are lost and are going to hell if they do not hear and respond to the gospel.

This is Not True About Me		This is Sort of True About Me			This is Totally True About Me	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #6: *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15)*

Question #6: I am always prepared to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in a compassionate and respectful manner whenever anyone asks me how I know that I am saved.

This is Not True About Me		This is Sort of True About Me			This is Totally True About Me	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #7: *To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law... To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel... (1 Corinthians 9:20-23)*

Question #7: I am very careful how I act around other people at all times so that I may have an opportunity to share the gospel with them. I try to the best of my ability not to say or do anything around other people which may create a “stumbling block” that could prevent them from coming to Jesus Christ because of my lack of being a good witness.

This is Not True About Me		This is Sort of True About Me			This is Totally True About Me	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #8: *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17)*

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. (Romans 1:16)

Question #8: I know that the only way for someone to be saved is that they need to hear the gospel as it is written in God’s word. That is why I specifically quote Scripture and/or use the bible when I am witnessing to lost people so that the literal Word of God can penetrate and change their hearts.

This is Not True About Me	This is Sort of True About Me	This is Totally True About Me
1 2	3 4 5	6 7

Scripture #9: *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18)*

Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1Corinthians 1:22-24)

Question #9: I know that not everyone will respond appropriately to the Gospel. Although most people who hear the gospel will think it is foolish, I still share it because I know some will be saved.

I Don’t Understand this Concept	I Sort Of Understand This Concept	I Totally Understand This Concept
1 2	3 4 5	6 7

Scripture #10: *But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! (Galatians 1:8)*

Question #10: I understand that the only true gospel of Jesus Christ is the one presented by the Word of God as found in the bible. Any deviation from that is not a true gospel and is condemned by God.

I Don’t Understand this Concept	I Sort Of Understand This Concept	I Totally Understand This Concept
1 2	3 4 5	6 7

Scripture #11: *As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11)*

Question #11: I understand that sometimes when I share the gospel some people may quickly respond and give their lives to Jesus Christ (i.e. “like rain quickly turning grass green”). Sometimes a person may NOT respond to the gospel right away; however, over time, that person can become convicted and convinced of the gospel which leads them to be saved (i.e. “the snow needs to melt before the grass will turn green”). Therefore, I share the gospel with the confidence that it is never a waste of time.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #12: *Romans 10:13-14 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." ... how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? (Romans 10:13-14)*

Question #12: I know that anyone who turns to God in faith through their belief in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior can be saved. However, to have faith in Christ, they need to hear the gospel from a faithful witness. That is why I am active in sharing the gospel with those who have not heard.

This is Not True About Me		This is Sort of True About Me			This is Totally True About Me	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

How to Grade Yourself on “Who is Your Lord”?

- 1) Add up all of the numbers you circled for the 12 questions above. (Max score “84”).
- 2) Compare your scores to the scales below and take action as the Lord leads you:

84 – 56 *You have a “voice for the gospel” that demonstrates your understanding and faithfulness as a witness of Jesus Christ. Continuing sharing the gospel with the lost whenever opportunities allow you to do so.*

55 – 29 *You are growing as a disciple of Christ in the area of sharing the gospel. Strive to learn more about how to effectively share the gospel and then look for God to provide opportunities for you to witness for Him.*

28-7 *You really need to examine why you do not share the gospel with the lost. Make time to be trained and trust in God to overcome your fears.*