

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

TEST EIGHT OF DISCIPLESHIP MATURITY

Characteristic #8 - “The Mind of Christ”

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 have a “mind” transformed by the Word of God (Romans 12:1-2). A person’s normal (sinful) mind can never submit to God’s will nor be pleasing to Him (Romans 8:7-8). Therefore, in order for a person to be a mature disciple of Jesus Christ they must have their “mind” changed to “think” like Christ, so they will be motivated to “live” like Christ (Colossians 3:15-17). God doesn’t just pay attention to what you “do”...He also knows all of your “thoughts” (Mark 2:6-8; John 2:24-25). So, do you have THE MIND OF CHRIST?

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

For you have been BORN AGAIN, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. (1 Peter 1:23)

Question #1: I know that I am saved because of the promises of God found in the Holy Scriptures. I do not base my salvation on an “experience” or on my “feelings”. Rather, I know and trust what Jesus Christ has done for me in accordance with the Word of God.

This is Not What I Think	This Sort of Defines My Thinking	This Accurately Defines My Thinking
1 2	3 4 5	6 7

Scripture #2: And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times. (Psalm 12:6)

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

Question #2: I believe that the Bible actually is the Word of God and that I can trust all of it as being true and reliable upon which to guide my thoughts, words, and decisions.

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: Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)

Question #3: I read, listen to, and study the word of God so often that I am more and more seeing the world as God views it. I find myself setting aside the world's values as my mind is continually being changed and renewed by God's Word.

Not Very Often (I struggle with this; not sure How to)		Usually (I am trying to, but need to improve)			Almost Always (I concentrate on this daily)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #4: Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. (1 Peter 2:2-3)

Question #4: I understand the Bible's basic story and teachings. I know what the difference is between the Old Testament and the New Testament. I am so familiar with all of the books of the Bible that if I hear a name of one of the books of the Bible...I can immediately tell you if it is in the Old or New Testament.

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 keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe... (Ephesians 1:17-19a)*

Question #5: I have become so familiar with the Word of God that my knowledge and love of the Lord is increasing continually. I now understand from God’s Word who I am in Christ and what Jesus Christ has called me to do. I also know the rewards promised in the Scriptures for those disciples who do what He says to do.

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: *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)*

We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. (1 Corinthians 2:12)

Question #6: When I read the Bible, or hear it preached, it makes sense to me and I usually understand what God wants me to (or “not” to) think, say, or do.

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: *How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. (Psalm 119:9)*

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11)

Question #7: I am so convinced in my mind that living according to God’s Word is best for me, that I regularly memorize it so that my mind is more resistant to sinning against my Lord.

Not Very Often (I struggle with this; not sure How to)		Usually (I am trying to, but need to improve)			Almost Always (I concentrate on this daily)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #8: *Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way. (Romans 14:13)*

Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God-- even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. (1 Corinthians 10:32-33)

Question #8: God's Word has transformed my mind from being self-focused to "others" focused. Therefore, before I do anything, I try my best (with the Lord's help) to make sure my words, thoughts, or actions will not be a sin against another person or influence them to possibly sin.

Not Very Often (I struggle with putting others first)		Usually (I am trying to, but need to improve)			Almost Always (I concentrate on this daily)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Scripture #9: *Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. (Hebrews 3:1)*

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:2-3)

Question #9: I am reading, listening, and meditating on the Word of God so often that I have learned to focus my mind regularly on the things of God so that I am not overly attached to the things of this earth. I think mostly about how I can apply God's Word to honor Christ with my life.

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 #10: *Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful TO DO EVERYTHING WRITTEN IN IT. Then you will be PROSPEROUS AND SUCCESSFUL. (Joshua 1:8)*

Question #10: I know and am confident that my success in life is dependent NOT upon my intelligence, strength, nor skills; rather, I will be most satisfied in my life if I am so familiar with the Word of God that I use it to control my thoughts, words, and deeds..

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 #11: *But make up your mind not to worry... (Luke 21:14a)*

Do not be anxious about anything... (Philippians 4:6a)

Question #11: Reading and thinking about God’s Word has helped me to stop worrying about things I have no control of and, instead, I trust in the Lord to take care of my needs and protect me.

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 #12: *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:8-9)*

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, YOU ARE REALLY MY DISCIPLES. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

Question #12: The Lord’s Word has taken control of my mind in such a manner that I normally feel the presence of God in my life because I think of Him continually. I know I am a disciple of Jesus Christ and I am enjoying my walk with Him.

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 are developing the “mind” of Christ. Continue to read, listen to, study, and memorize God’s Word.*

55 – 29 *You need to be more disciplined in reading, listening to, studying, and memorizing God’s Word so that you can overcome a “divided” mind. (James 1:8)*

28-7 *Are you sure you are really saved? If you are, you are in danger of severe “discipline” by Jesus if you do not repent and allow His Word to change your “mind” about who He is and what He requires of you. (2Corinthians 13:5; Hebrews 12:4-6)*