



PORTRAITS OF DISCIPLESHIP

BY HEATH ROGERS

LESSON 6: A CHILD OF GOD

The Disciple's Security

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name (John 1:12)

A Child Of God

- ☞ We have a right to be called a child of God

- ☞ John 1:12; Romans 8:16

- ☞ We have been born again

- ☞ 1 Peter 1:23

- ☞ We have been adopted

- ☞ Romans 8:15-17; Galatians 4:4-7,
Ephesians 1:5

The Blessings Of Being A Child Of God

1. We have a new name (Acts 11:26)
2. We are the object of God's love and attention (1 John 5:14-15; 1 Pet. 3:12)
3. We have our Father's provisions (Matt. 6:25-34, 7:7-11)
4. We have our Father's protection (1 Cor. 10:13; Heb. 13:5-6)
5. We have our Father's guidance (Rom. 8:14)
6. We have an inheritance (Rom. 8:16-17)

The Responsibilities Of Being A Child Of God

1. We must keep ourselves separate from the sinful world (2 Cor. 6:17-18)
2. We must love God and keep His commandments (Matt. 22:36-38, 1 John 5:3)
3. We must trust in God to keep His promises (2 Cor. 5:7; 2 Tim. 1:12)
4. We must follow God's word, grow, and live holy lives (2 Pet. 3:18; 1 Cor. 10:13)

The Responsibilities Of Being A Child Of God

- ☞ If we leave our Father's house, we forfeit all rights and privileges as a son (Luke 15:11-24), as well as our eternal soul (James 5:19-20)
- ☞ When we sin, we must repent and seek God's forgiveness (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9)

LESSON 7: A MEMBER OF THE BODY

The Disciple's Place

So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another (Rom. 12:5)

The Church Is The Body Of Christ

- Ephesians 1:22-23

The Benefits Of Being In The Body

1. Salvation (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23)
2. Identification with Christ (1 Cor. 12:27)
3. Support and edification (Heb. 10:24-25)
4. Prayers (Acts 12:5; James 5:14-15)
5. Strength (Acts 4:32; Eccl. 4:9-12)

Responsibilities Of Being In The Body

1. Respect God's plan and purpose
(1 Cor. 12:18, 24; Rom. 12:3-8)
2. Respect the authority of Christ
(Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18, 2:19)
3. Respect other members
 - ☞ We are members of one another (Rom. 12:5)
 - ☞ Have care for one another (1 Cor. 12:25-26)
 - ☞ Keep the unity of Spirit in bond of peace
(Eph. 4:1-6)
 - ☞ Do our share (Eph. 4:16)

Diversity, Yet Equality

1. Diversity of backgrounds, but equal access to God (Gal. 3:26-28)
2. Diversity of functions, but equally important (1 Cor. 12:15-27)
3. Diversity of talents, but unity of purpose (Eph. 4:11-16)

LESSON 8: "MY BROTHER'S KEEPER"

The Disciple's Support

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching (Heb. 10:24-25 KJV)

Obligations We Have Toward Our Brethren

1. Love (Rom. 13:8-10; Matt. 22:36-40)
2. Consideration (Heb. 10:24-25; Phil. 2:4)
3. Provocation (Heb. 10:24-25)
4. Exhortation (Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Thess. 5:14)
5. Restoration (Gal. 6:1; James 5:19-20)
6. Good Works (Titus 3:14; Gal. 6:10)
7. A Good Example (Phil. 3:17)

Obligations We Have Toward Our Brethren

8. Patience (Gal. 5:22-23; Rom. 15:1-3)
9. Benefit of the Doubt (1 Cor. 13:7)
10. Forgiveness (Matt. 18:21-35; Luke 17:3-4)

LESSON 9: A SERVANT

The Disciple's Greatness

*...whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave
(Matt. 20:26-27)*

A Unique Role For A Servant

- ☞ Disciples are servants of Christ
- ☞ However, not only are we to serve our Master (Christ), we must also serve one another (our fellow servants)
- ☞ Matthew 20:20-28

Why Take On The Role Of A Servant

1. Greatness in the kingdom

☛ Matthew 20:26-27

2. Follow example of Christ

☛ Matthew 20:28; John 13:3-17

How To Be A Good Servant

1. The Right Attitude

- ☞ Love
- ☞ Meekness
- ☞ Kindness
- ☞ Gentleness
- ☞ Humility

How To Be A Good Servant

2. Awareness

- ☞ Our talents (Rom. 12:6-8)
- ☞ Our task (Titus 2:14, 3:8, 14)
- ☞ Needs of others (Phil. 2:3-4)

How To Be A Good Servant

3. Action

- ☞ James 2:15-16; 1 John 3:18
- ☞ Physical needs (Matt. 25:35-40)
- ☞ Emotional needs (Rom. 12:15; 1 Thess. 5:14)
- ☞ Spiritual needs (1 Pet. 2:2; Heb. 3:12-13; 1 Thess. 5:14; Gal. 6:1; James 5:19-20)

How To Be A Good Servant

4. Availability

- ⌚ Time
- ⌚ Personal involvement
- ⌚ Sacrifice

How To Be A Good Servant

1. The Right Attitude
2. Awareness
3. Action
4. Availability

LESSON 10: STANGERS AND PILGRIMS

The Disciple's Walk of Faith

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth (Hebrews 11:13)

What Are Strangers And Pilgrims?

- ☞ **Stranger** - translated from the Greek word *xenos* which literally means "a foreigner"
- ☞ Thus, a stranger is one who is out of his own country, someone who is in a foreign land
- ☞ **Pilgrim** - translated from the Greek word *parepidemos*, which refers to a resident foreigner, one who lives among a people who are not his own
- ☞ This person does not have the rights of a citizen, nor is he seeking a permanent residence

What Makes Us Strangers And Pilgrims?

1. Disciples are called out of this world and made citizens of a heavenly kingdom (Col. 1:13; Phil. 3:20)
2. Disciples are following one whom the world has rejected (John 15:18-21)
3. Disciples no longer think like the people of the world (Rom. 12:2)

What Does It Take To Live Like Strangers And Pilgrims?

1. Trust in God's promises (Rom. 4:20-21)
2. Obedience to God's instructions (Heb. 11:8)
3. Coming out from the world (1 Pet. 1:15-17;
2 Cor. 6:14-18)
4. Delaying gratification (Heb. 12:15-17)
5. Commitment (Heb. 10:34-36; Rev. 2:10)

LESSON 11: SALT AND LIGHT

The Disciple's Influence

You are the salt of the earth ... You are the light of the world (Matt. 5:13-14)

The Disciple's Influence

- ☞ Matthew 5:13-16
- ☞ Disciples are to have a positive influence upon the world
- ☞ We are the salt of the earth and the light of the world

Salt

1. Salt preserves
2. Salt gives flavor
3. Salt creates thirst

Light

1. Light reveals and illuminates
2. Light drives away darkness
3. Light gives guidance
4. Light warms and comforts
5. Light draws those who want to come out of the darkness

Maintaining Our Influence

- Jesus spoke of salt losing its flavor (Matt. 5:13)
- We must “practice what we preach”
(Rom. 2:17-24; 2 Cor. 8:21)
- We cannot compromise with sin and error
(Gal. 2:4-5)
- We must show our loyalty to Christ over the world (2 Tim. 2:19; James 4:4)

LESSON 12: AN APOLOGIST

The Disciple's Answer

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear (1 Peter 3:15)

An Apologist

- ☞ We are to be ready to give a "defense" (1 Pet. 3:15)
- ☞ The word "defense" is translated from the Greek word ***apologian***, from which we get our English word "apology"
- ☞ This Greek word, however, does not convey the idea that Christians are to apologize for their faith
- ☞ It means to give a verbal defense, or a speech in one's defense, as in court
- ☞ This Greek term is also found in our English word "apologetics," which is a branch of theology devoted to defending the evidence that supports Christianity

An Apologist - 1 Peter 3:15

1. Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts
 - ☛ We are to give Christ the position of Lord and Master in our hearts
 - ☛ We must believe that His teaching is worth believing, obeying, and defending

An Apologist - 1 Peter 3:15

2. Always be ready

- ☞ Readiness requires preparation
- ☞ We are to study the Word of God (2 Tim. 2:15)
- ☞ Prepare for and attend Bible classes
- ☞ Attend worship services, Gospel Meetings, etc.

An Apologist - 1 Peter 3:15

3. To give a defense

- ☞ From the word of God

- ☞ Psalm 119:160

- ☞ John 17:17

An Apologist - 1 Peter 3:15

4. To everyone who asks you

- ☞ We should welcome and appreciate opportunities to defend the gospel and help others come to a knowledge of the truth
- ☞ However, there are some questions and people who are not deserving of our attention
- ☞ 1 Timothy 6:3-5; 2 Timothy 2:16-18; Titus 3:10-11; Matthew 7:6

An Apologist - 1 Peter 3:15

5. A reason for the hope that is in you

- ☞ The existence of God
- ☞ The resurrection and deity of Christ
- ☞ The inspiration of the Bible
- ☞ Why we believe in Heaven and Hell
- ☞ What one must do in order to be saved
- ☞ The purpose and method of baptism
- ☞ Why we reject denominationalism
- ☞ Why we do not use instrumental music
- ☞ Why we partake of the Lord's Supper every Sunday

An Apologist - 1 Peter 3:15

6. With the proper attitude

- ☞ Meekness (Eph. 4:15; Col. 4:6)

- ☞ Fear (Rom. 14:12)

- ☞ Maintaining a good conscience (1 Pet. 3:16)

LESSON 13: FISHERS OF MEN

The Disciple's Task

Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men (Mark 1:17)

Why Become Fishers Of Men?

1. Because we are following Jesus
 - ☞ Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10)
 - ☞ We are to join Him in this important work

Why Become Fishers Of Men?

2. Gives us a sense of purpose

◦ When disciples make more disciples, they are fulfilling their purpose (Matt. 28:19-20)

Why Become Fishers Of Men?

3. It will please our Master

- ☞ 2 Corinthians 5:9

- ☞ God wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:3-4)

Why Become Fishers Of Men?

4. Because there is a great need

☞ Matthew 9:35-38

☞ Isaiah 6:8

Why Become Fishers Of Men?

5. Because it is the right thing to do

☞ 2 Kings 7:3-10

☞ Psalm 32:1-2

Why Become Fishers Of Men?

6. Because it is our duty

☞ Luke 17:10

☞ Ezekiel 33:1-9

☞ 2 Corinthians 5:9-11

Why Become Fishers Of Men?

7. For the joy of saving souls

☞ Luke 15:7, 10, 32

☞ Acts 15:3

Why Become Fishers Of Men?

1. Because we are following Jesus
2. Because it gives us a sense of purpose
3. Because it will please our Master
4. Because there is a great need
5. Because it is the right thing to do
6. Because it is our duty
7. For the joy of saving souls