

Title: **What Does it Mean to be a Christian?**

Text: *Acts 11:26*

Introduction:

- A. Joke: Boy asks dad, “What is a Christian?”
 - a. Dad explains in glowing terms
 - b. Boy amazed says, “Have I ever seen one?”
- B. Suppose someone asked you to show them from the Bible using the term “Christian”, what the Bible says about being a Christian.
 - a. Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance and look up all the references using this term.
 - i. Acts 11:26 – first use
 - ii. Acts 26:28 – someone almost became one
 - iii. 1 Peter 4:16 – suffer may be involved
 - b. KEY: Acts 11:26 – Christian is a disciple of Christ (3 vs. 200+)
 - i. Disciple tells WHAT we are: learner/follower
 - ii. Christian tells WHOSE disciple we are: Christ’s

I. Sign Post Passages in Matthew

- a. 10:24-25 – be as teacher (Lk. 6:40): identity
- b. 28:19-20 – make disciples: objective

II. Sign Post Passages in John (Positive Expectations)

- a. 8:31,32 – abide in word (you indeed)
- b. 13:34,35 – love one another (all men know)
- c. 15:8 – bear fruit (Father glorified)
 - i. disposition (Gal. 5:22-23)
 - ii. good works (Titus 3:14; Mt. 5:16; 1 Pt. 2:12)
 - iii. worship (Heb. 13:15)
 - iv. winning souls (Rom. 1:13)

III. Sign Post Passages in Luke (Neg. Expectations)

- a. 14:26 -- hate father and mother
 - i. Mt. 10:37 – to love them more
 - ii. Mt. 12:46-50 -- who is my mother, etc.
- b. 14:27-32 (9:23) – bear cross
 - i. not a piece of jewelry
 - ii. not merely a personal problem
 - iii. but a funeral procession w/ a living corpse
- c. 14:33 – forsake all that you have
 - i. Lk. 12:31 – seek [first] the kingdom

Conclusion:

- A. To fulfill the Great Commission to make disciples (Mt. 28)
 - We must first understand what a disciple is as per our lesson
 - We must secondly determine if we are disciples... personal application
- B. We want to duplicate the early church (Acts 6:1, 7)
 - The number of disciples multiplied
 - The number of disciples multiplied greatly

Invitation: