

Character Inventory

Discipleship is more than believing the right things...it's a way of living...a life-style. A disciple of Jesus not only experiences a change of position, but God's grace transforms us, resulting in changed performance and character. Character is who you are, which affects what you do. We are "called to holiness." To follow Jesus is to develop toward a particular life style of living – in thought, word and deed. In short, discipleship is becoming Christ-like in who you are, how you think, and what you do in thought, word and deed.

The following self-evaluation will help you move forward in your journey toward Christ-likeness—in character and behavior. A self-study like this is a way for you to privately examine your own spiritual progress and then decide where God wants to work next in your life. Get ready for a powerful life-changing experience as you go through this process.

Instructions

Circle a number which represents how you are doing in each of the following areas of discipleship. "0" represents absolute failure in that area and "6" means you are experiencing habitual success in that area. No one else will see your results...this is just between you and the Lord, so be honest with yourself and with Him.

1. Thankfulness

It is the habit of my life to thank God and others for what they have done. I can honestly say that I am a thankful person and often express my gratitude.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

2. Gentleness

My life is free from all outbursts of selfish anger or rage. I am approachable, easily entreated, quiet in spirit, open to criticism, and don't get defensive when I am corrected or rebuked.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

3. Humility

I do not have an inflated self-opinion and consistently consider others higher than myself; I have a teachable spirit, and avoid all bragging, name dropping, and spiritual pride.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

4. Pure Attitudes

My lifestyle is one of right relationships...not just outwardly, but inwardly too. I have no hate, ill will, malice, or bitterness toward any other person anywhere on this earth.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

5. Meekness

I refuse to fight back when people criticize, condemn, reject, or complain against me...even if they do it with wrong motives. I practice giving a soft answer to turn away their wrath.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

6. Peacemaking

It is my practice to try to bring peace between others who are at odds. I don't just stand by and allow division to fester without trying to get involved to bring peace.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

12. Submission

I do not resist those in authority over me, even if they are less competent or gifted.

0 1 ~~2~~ ~~3~~ 4 5 6

13. Right Relationships

Reflecting on all my relationships, past and present, I am able to say that there are no broken relationships with anybody anywhere which I have not attempted to straighten out.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

14. Giving Living

I regularly practice generous giving to both the church and to the poor, homeless, helpless, widows, orphans, other needy folk. Generosity is normal behavior for me.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

15. Family Time

It is the routine of my life to control the amount of time I spend in work, pleasure, or other activities which take too much time from my family. Family time is a top priority of my life and I live like it.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

16. Forgiving

If there is an individual or a group of people who hurt me in the past, I hold no resentment, bitterness, or a grudge against them. I have fully forgiven everyone who ever hurt me.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

22. Spiritual Intimacy

It is the routine of my life to spend Time Alone With God each day to read the Bible and pray...and beyond that, I "practice the presence" of Jesus all day long. I am constantly sensing His surrounding presence in my life, like the air I breathe.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

23. Thought-Life

My thought-life is absolutely free from all impure thoughts. I have habitual victory over all sinful sexual fantasies or daydreams.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

24. Living Above Reproach

I carefully tend to my relationships with the opposite sex so that not even the hint of impropriety exists. I painstakingly avoid situations which could feed sinful desires or even tempt others to gossip about me...and I have no dangerous emotional bonds which could lead to trouble.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

25. Truthfulness

My yes is yes, my 200 is 200, my ten point buck is a ten point buck. I totally avoid half-truths, flattery, white lies, and exaggeration. I practice absolute honesty in speech.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

26. Tongue Stewardship

I abstain from slander, gossip, harshness, unkindness, biting criticism, caustic remarks, obscenity, foolish talk, and coarse joking. Instead, I use my tongue to build others up, giving words of encouragement, comfort, help, inspiration, and challenge. My tongue is under the Holy Spirit's control.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

Application

I. Listening

Now look back through your answers and find ONE or TWO areas where God seems to be speaking to you. If you marked yourself low in a dozen areas, concentrate on listening to the Holy Spirit in order to narrow these down to one or two. Seldom does the Lord deal in more than one or two areas at once.

Note: If you get a terrible feeling of despair after looking through your list, recognize that these feelings come from Satan, not God. Satan CONDEMNS us for our poor performance. The Holy Spirit CONVICTS us. Condemnation makes us want to give up; conviction makes us want to change.

After taking some time to LISTEN to the Spirit, list in the following space the specific areas you feel God wants to begin changing today. The areas I need to work on are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

ii. Action

God seldom changes us without our involvement. Becoming Christ-like is a partnership in which God does His part, but He usually wants us to take some action too. What must YOU do to get change started in this area? List what you will DO to cooperate with God in changing this area He's speaking to you about today.

I will: _____

When I will do it: _____