

ii. ^{NAS} **John 15:13** “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” *Jesus did much more! When we were His enemies, He laid down His precious life for us!*

b. Our love for others:

i. ^{NAS} **John 13:34** “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” Jesus loved us by providing our forgiveness! *How is God calling us to serve the needs of others!*

ii. ^{NAS} **1 John 3:18** “Little children, **let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.**” *Love is ACTION!*

5. **Martin Luther was a FAITHFUL Disciple:** God showed Him the saving truth and united Him to Jesus; then *Martin took action to boldly share that precious truth!* His life was not easy; *many hoped to put him to death;* but God used him to bless many others, even us!

Conclusion: Now, *knowing that we are forgiven, inhabited, and gifted,* let us serve others according to God’s plan for each one of our lives! And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

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Let’s Be Disciples of Jesus Christ – Part 7

Serve → *As God has planned and gifted!*

Disciples honor God by serving others with their God-given abilities!



Disciples:

- Focus** → *Spiritual things first!*
- Read** → *Daily spiritual nourishment!*
- Pray** → *Daily Communication w/ God!*
- Receive** → *Weekly served by God!*
- Give** → *First, in proportion, cheerfully!*
- Serve** → *As God has planned & gifted!*
- Care** → *About others spiritual needs!*

Reformation Day – 2010

October 31 → 8:15 & 10:45

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, how did we get to where we are today? *Let’s put things in order:*

- Before creation – God predestined us to be His *forgiven and adopted* children through Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:3-4)!
- In time – God called us by the Gospel (Rom. 1:16) and justified us in His sight (Rom. 5:1) *through Jesus!*
- At conversion – the Holy Spirit came to live within us and gave us at least one particular gift / ability.

In summary, God has → predestined us, → forgiven us, → adopted us, → justified us, → inhabited us, and → gifted us **to live as disciples of Jesus Christ!**

1. **The Service of Disciples has been Planned IN ADVANCE:**

^{NAS} **Ephesians 2:10** “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Before time God took action to choose us and make plans for our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ so that in time we would seek and follow those plans! Therefore, *let us set aside OUR will and be open to HIS will!*

2. **Disciples are INHABITED by THE SPIRIT:**

- a. The Spirit comes with Christ: ^{NIV} **Acts 2:38** ...**“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”** When God takes action to unite sinners to Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins, the Holy Spirit also comes to *inhabit* such people!
- b. The Spirit living on the INSIDE shows on the OUTSIDE: ^{NAS} **Galatians 5:22** **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control...”** As a healthy apple tree on the INSIDE shows beneficial fruit on the OUTSIDE, *so it is with those who are inhabited by the Spirit!* Look at each other; *can you see the evidence of the Spirit – love, joy, peace...?*

3. **Disciples SERVE OTHERS according to God’s Gifts:**

- a. Disciples serve others: ^{NIV} **1 Peter 4:10** **“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others...”** So along with being saved and inhabited, we have been gifted – *not to serve ourselves but others!*
- b. Disciples form the one body of Christ: ^{NIV} **Romans 12:4** **“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the**

same function,⁵ **so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.** Therefore, we should ✦ spend time with each other, ✦ get to know each other, and ✦ care about each other – *as members of the one body of Christ!*

- c. Disciples serve for the good of the one body: ^{NIV} **1 Corinthians 12:7** **Now to each one the manifestation [appearance] of the Spirit is given for the common good.”** The Spirit does inhabit disciples, *so His fruit will show in our lives!* But 1 Corinthians 12 is referring to our **spiritual gifts!** Take note: Each disciple has received at least one gift; and for what purpose, **“the common good” – the good of ALL!**
- d. Disciples serve as gifted: ^{NIV} **Romans 12:6** **“...If a man's gift...⁷ ...is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;⁸ if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”** Are you beginning to see God’s plan ✦ for yourself and ✦ for all disciples of Jesus Christ?
- e. Dr. Haugk wrote this summary: **“Spiritual gifts are God’s empowering of God’s people for God’s work!”** (Discovering God’s Vision..., Leader’s Guide, 46)

4. **Disciples are Motivated by LOVE:**

- a. God’s love for us:
 - i. ^{NAS} **1 John 4:19** **“We love, because He first loved us.”** We were dead, *but God made us alive!*