

What to Do When Discipleship Is Difficult

I must write ... urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people. Jude 3

... some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Jude 4

1. REMEMBER JESUS SAVED SINNERS, NOT _____ .

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. Rev. 21:4-5

You say, "I am allowed to do anything"—but not everything is good for you. And even though "I am allowed to do anything," I must not become a slave to anything. ... You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. 1Cor. 6:12,19-20

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Gal. 5:19-21

... these people—who claim authority from their dreams—live immoral lives, defy authority, and scoff at supernatural beings. Jude 8

... these people scoff at things they do not understand. Like unthinking animals, they do whatever their instincts tell them... Jude 10

2. COMPARE THE _____ .

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. John 10:10

Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. So do not be attracted by strange, new ideas. Hebr. 13:8

He always stands by his covenant—the commitment he made to a thousand generations. Ps. 105:8

"I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, Yahweh, before you. For I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose." Ex. 33:19

...they are like dangerous reefs that can shipwreck you. They are like shameless shepherds who care only for themselves. They are like clouds blowing over the land without giving any rain. They are like trees in autumn that are doubly dead, for they bear no fruit and have been pulled up by the roots. They are like wild waves of the sea, churning up the foam of their shameful deeds. They are like wandering stars, doomed forever to blackest darkness.

Jude 12-13

3. SURROUND YOURSELF WITH PEOPLE WHO _____

_____ .

I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.

Phil. 3:12

Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

Eph. 4:29

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

Gal.6:1-2

... you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering. Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. Show mercy to still others, but do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives.

Jude 22-23

4. PLAY _____ .

Remember... (17)

Build Up , Pray, and Wait (20)

Show mercy (22)

God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Mt 5:7

"Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

Mt 9:13

Jesus said, "No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been."

Mark 9:19

"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap.

Luke 6:37