

The Commandments of Jesus Christ to His Disciples

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In the Great Commission, we are commanded to make disciples by baptizing converts and teaching them to observe, “all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matt 28:19-20). What are the commandments that Jesus Christ gave to his disciples during his earthly ministry? Which of these commandments are all Christian disciples responsible to observe? If the Church is to properly accomplish its task of making disciples, it must know the specific commandments of Christ that it is to teach to Christian converts. What, then, are the universal commandments of Christ for all Christian disciples throughout the entire age?

It must be first stated that the only commandments of Christ (given during his earthly ministry) that we can be certain about are those clearly recorded in the four Gospels of the New Testament and a few in the epistles. It is difficult to arrive at a specific number of stated imperatives or commandments of Christ recorded in the Scripture because of the many *cluster commandments* (i.e. a series of specific directives that may be viewed as one, e.g. Matt 10:7-14). A meticulous study will reveal a total count of somewhere between 450 to 565 stated imperatives or commandments of Christ. Many of these

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commandments are duplications of the same commandment repeated in the various gospel accounts.

Not all of these commandments were given to disciples. Some were incidental commandments given to people being healed (Mt. 8:3,13), to devils (Matt. 4:10), to John the Baptist (Matt. 3:15), or to men needing ceremonial cleansing under the Law of Moses (Matt. 8:4). Other commandments were evangelistic, calling the lost to come to him (Matt. 4:17; 11:28). Still others were reproving commandments given to the Scribes and Pharisees (Matt. 23:23,32). It should be further stated that not all commandments given to disciples can be universally applied to all disciples for all time. Christ gave incidental commandments to disciples for specific individuals and tasks (Matt. 17:27; 21:2-3). He also gave commandments to disciples that were limited only to the time of his public ministry (Matt. 10:5) or to the Tribulation Period (Matt. 24:15-26). But of the approximately 500 commandments of Christ recorded in Scripture, around 200 have universal application to all Christian disciples.

Taking into account the repeated commandments in the various gospel accounts, there appear to be somewhere around 125 specific commandments of Jesus Christ given to his disciples. These are listed on the following pages. No attempt is made to interpret these commandments in this study – that is left up to the discipler. There is a second list of commandments given to the general public or to non-Christians which are obviously applicable to Christ's disciples. Finally, a third list is included which contains Christ's references to the scriptural commandments that he obviously views as binding upon his disciples. There are certainly many implied commandments contained in the teachings of Christ, but these will not be covered in this study.

**Recorded Commandments of Jesus Christ
Given to His Disciples during His Lifetime that are
Applicable to All Christian Disciples**

Commandments Concerning Disciples' Relationship to Christ

1. "Follow me" (John 1:43; John 21:19; Mark 2:14; Matt. 9:9; Luke 9:59; John 12:26; John 21:22; Mark 1:17; Matt. 8:22).
2. Believe in Christ and don't let your heart be troubled (John 14:1).
3. Believe that Christ is in the Father and the Father in him or else believe it for the very works sake (John 14:11).
4. "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).
5. "Abide in me" [as a branch abides in the vine] (John 15:4).
6. "Continue ye in my love" (John 15:9).
7. Remember Christ's word "The servant is not greater than his lord" (John 15:20).
8. "When ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, we are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10).

Commandments Concerning Disciples' Relationship to One Another

1. "Love one another" (John 15:17; John 13:34-35; 15:12).
2. "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you" (John 13:14-15).
3. "Have peace one with another" (Mark 9:50).
4. "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones" [believers] (Matt. 18:10).
5. "Take heed to yourselves, If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him, and if he repent, forgive him" (Luke 17:3). "...and if he trespass against thee seven times in a

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day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, "I repent; thou shalt forgive him" (Luke 17:4).

7. "If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone." (Matt. 18:15).
8. "...but if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.." (Matt 18:16).
9. "...and if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church.." (Matt. 18:17a).
10. "...but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican" (Matt. 18:17b).
11. "Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister, and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant" (Matt. 20:26-27; 23:11).
12. "Be not ye called Rabbi; for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren" (Matt. 23:8).
13. "Call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven" (Matt. 23:9).
14. "Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ" (Matt. 23:10).
15. "First cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye" (Matt. 7:5; Luke 6:42).

Commandments Concerning Disciples' Relationship to People in General

1. "As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise" (Luke 6:31; Matt. 7:12).
2. "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful" (Luke 6:36 cf. Luke 10:36-37).
3. "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: Condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned" (Luke 6:37a; Matt. 7:1).
4. "Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven" (Luke 6:37b).

5. “Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge...and thou be cast into prison” (Matt. 5:25; Luke 12:58).
6. “Resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also, and if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also, and whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile go with him twain” (Matt. 5:39-41; Luke 6:29).
7. “Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away,” and “of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again” (Matt. 5:42; Luke 6:30).
8. “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” (Matt. 5:44; Luke 6:27-28, 35).
9. Let alone [disregard] the blind leaders of the blind (Matt. 15:14).
10. Don’t forbid someone who doesn’t follow Christ with you from doing religious works if he does them in Jesus’ name (Luke 9:50).
11. Whatever those in authority “bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say and do not” (Matt. 23:3).

Commandments Concerning Disciples’ Relationship to the Word

1. “If any man have ears to hear, let him hear” (Mark 4:23; Matt. 13:43. 18; cf. Rev. 2:7).
2. Take heed what and how ye hear (Mark 4:24; Luke 8:18).
3. “Let these sayings sink down into your ears” (Luke 9:44).
4. “Beware of false prophets” (Matt. 7:15).
5. “Beware of the Scribes” (Luke 29:46 cf. Mark 12:38).

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6. "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees...and the Sadducees" and "of Herod" [False Doctrine] (Matt. 16:6 cf. 12; Mark 8:150).
7. "Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill" (Matt. 5:17).

Commandments Concerning Disciples' Prayer Life

1. "Ask" in Christ's name "and ye shall receive" (John 16:24).
2. "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24).
3. "When ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any, that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses" (Mark 11:25).
4. "Watch and pray" concerning Christ's imminent return (Mark 13:33; Luke 21:36).
5. "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation" (Matt. 26:41; Mark, 14:38; Luke 22:40; cf. Matt. 6:13).
6. Pray for your enemies "which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matt. 5:44).
7. Don't pray, like hypocrites, to be seen of men (Matt. 6:5).
8. "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and...pray to the Father which is in secret" (Matt. 6:6).
9. "When thou prayest, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do" (Matt. 6:7).
10. Don't follow the example of the heathen who pray using vain repetitions (Matt. 6:8).
11. Pray after the manner of the Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4).
12. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matt. 7:7; Luke 11:9).

13. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:38; Luke 10:2).
14. "Hear what the unjust judge said for Christ's intent that "men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:6 cf. 1).

Commandments Concerning Disciples' Sanctification and Religious Works

1. "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23; Mark 8:34; Matt. 16:24).
2. "Have salt in yourselves" (Mark 9:50; cf. Matt. 5:13).
3. If your (right) hand, foot, or eye offend you, cut them off or pluck it out, and cast them away from you (Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Matt. 5:29-30; 18:8-9).
4. "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy" (Luke 12:1).
5. Be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect (Matt. 5:48).
6. "Take heed that ye do not your righteousness (including alms, prayers, and fasting) before men, to be seen of them" (Matt. 6:1).
7. Do not do your alms to have the glory of men (Matt. 6:2).
8. When you do alms, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing (Matt. 6:3).
9. When you fast, don't be like the hypocrites that appear to men to fast, but rather refresh yourself so not to appear to men to fast (Matt. 6:16-18).
10. "Swear not at all, neither by heaven...nor by the earth...neither by Jerusalem...neither shalt thou swear by thy head" (Matt. 5:34-36 cf. James 5:12).
11. "Let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil" (Matt. 5:37).

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12. Rejoice because your name is written in heaven (Luke 10:20).
13. "Have faith in God" (Mark 11:22).
14. "But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell: yea I say unto you, Fear him" (Luke 12:5).
15. "If thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hast ought against thee: Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way: first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Matt. 5:23-24).
16. He that is able to receive that it is good not to marry, let him receive it (Matt. 9:12).
17. "Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of me" (I Cor. 11:24; Matt. 26:26; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:19).
18. "This cup is the new testament in my blood: This do ye as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me" (I Cor. 11:25; Matt. 26:27; Luke 22:17).
19. "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Commandments Concerning Disciples' Relationship to Material Things

1. "Fear not, little flock" concerning your material needs, because it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).
2. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth" (Matt. 6:19).
3. "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matt. 6:20).
4. "Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matt. 6:24).
5. "Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not." (Luke 12:33 cf. Luke 11:41)

6. "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, nor yet for your body what ye shall put on" (Matt. 6:25, 31; Luke 12:22).
7. "Seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind" (Luke 12:29).
8. "Consider the ravens" to understand that God will provide your food (Luke 12:24 cf. Matt. 6:26).
9. "Consider the lilies" to understand that God will provide your clothing (Luke 12:27; Matt. 6:28).
10. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33; Luke 12:31).
11. "Take heed, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15).
12. "Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations" (Luke 16:9).
13. "Give, and it shall be given unto you" (Luke 6:38).
14. "...lend, hoping for nothing again" (Luke 6:35).
15. "He that hath a purse or scrip, 'let him take it.'" (Luke 22:36).

Commandments Concerning Disciples' Troubles, Trials, and Tribulations

1. "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).
2. "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).
3. "Take no thought for tomorrow: for tomorrow shall take thought for the things of itself" (Matt. 6:34).
4. "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword" (Matt. 10:34).

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5. "Take heed to yourselves: for they (your persecutors) shall deliver you up to councils" (Mark 13:9).
6. "When they shall lead you and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak; neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye" (Mark 13:11; Matt. 10:19; Luke 12:11; 21:14).
7. When persecuted and reviled for Christ's sake rejoice, be exceeding glad, and leap for joy" (Matt. 5:12; Luke 6:23).
8. "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul" (Matt. 10:28; Luke 12:4; Matt. 10:26).
9. Fear not, when persecuted, for you are more valuable than many sparrows" (Matt. 10:31; Luke 12:7).
10. "In your patience possess ye your souls" (Luke 21:19).
11. If you have no sword, sell your garment and buy one (Luke 22:36).
12. "Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword" (Matt. 26:52).
13. "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place and rest a while" (Mark 6:31).

Commandments Concerning Disciples' Evangelism

1. "Say not yet, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35).
2. "As my Father hath sent me even so send I you" (John 20:21).
3. "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14; Matt. 19:14; Luke 18:16).
4. "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

5. Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all things Christ commanded them (Matt. 28:19-20).
6. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).
7. "Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman (who annointed Christ's head with expensive ointment) hath done, be told for a memorial of her" (Matt. 26:13; Mark 14:9).
8. "Give not that which is holy unto dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine" (Matt. 7:6).
9. "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matt. 10:16).
10. "Beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils" (Matt. 10:17).
11. "What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light; and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops" (Matt. 10:27).
12. "Let the dead bury the dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:60).
13. "When they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another" (Matt. 10:23).
14. Take nothing for your missionary journey (Luke 9:3; Matt. 10:9-10; Mark 6:8-9).
15. Abide in worthy homes during your missionary journey (Luke 9:4; Matt. 10:11-13; Mark 6:10).
16. Shake the dust off your feet, from cities that reject the gospel (Luke 9:5; Matt. 10:14; Mark 6:11 cf. Acts 13:50,5).
17. Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee" (Mark 5:19; Luke 8:39).

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Commandments Concerning Disciples' Relationship to End Times and Christ's Return

1. "Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them" (Luke 21:8; Matt. 24:4; Mark 13:5).
2. "Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled" (Matt. 24:6; Mark 13:7; Luke 21:9).
3. "Whoso readeth, let him understand" concerning the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the Prophet" (Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14).
4. "But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things" (Mark 13:23).
5. Know the point of the story of the thief in the night (Luke 12:37).
6. "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28).
7. Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be weighed down with drunkenness and the cares of this life, so that day come upon you unawares (Luke 21:34).
8. "Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh" and "let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning" (Matt. 24:44; Luke 12:35-40).
9. "Watch" for Christ's imminent return (Mark 13:35, 37; Matt. 24:42; 25:13).

Listing of Recorded Commandments of Jesus Christ Given to Non-Christians or People in General that are Applicable to All Christian Disciples

1. "Hear and understand" Christ's word (Matt. 15:10; Mark 7:14).

2. "Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness" (Luke 11:35 cf. Matt. 6:23).
3. "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24).
4. "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matt. 19:6; Mark 10:9).
5. "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Mark 12:17; Matt. 22:21; Luke 20:25).
6. You pay tithes of mint, anise, cumin, rue and all manner of herbs, and have omitted and passed over the weightier matters of the law: Judgment, mercy, faith, and the love of God: "These ought ye to have done, and not leave the other undone" (Luke 11:42; Matt. 23:23).
7. "Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise" (John 2:16 cf. Matt. 21:12-13).
8. "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone" (John 8:7).
9. "Go, and sin no more" (John 8:11).
10. "Go and do thou likewise" (show mercy on your neighbor like the Good Samaritan) (Luke 10:29-37).
11. "Give alms of such things as ye have" (Luke 11:41).
12. "Cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also" (Matt. 23:26).
13. "When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honorable man than thou be bidden of him, and he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room" (Luke 14:8-9).
14. "But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 14:10-11).

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15. "When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neighbor, thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbors; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense he made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed" (Luke 14:12-13).
16. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me" (Matt. 11:29).

Listing of Recorded Scriptural Commandments that Jesus Christ Stated as Binding to Men and that Are Applicable to All Christian Disciples

1. "This first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment" (Mark 12:29-30; Matt. 22:37-38; cf. Deut. 6:4-5).
2. "And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other command greater than these" (Mark 12:31; Matt. 22:39; cf. Lev. 19:18).
3. "It is written, that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Luke 4:4; Matt. 4:4; cf. Deut. 8:3).
4. "It is written again, thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God" (Matt. 4:7; Luke 4:12 cf. Deut. 6:16).
5. "It is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (Luke 4:8; Matt. 4:10 cf. Deut. 6:13).
6. "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded saying, Honor thy father and mother..." (Matt. 15:3-4; Mark 7:8-10 cf. Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16).
7. "Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

Honor thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself' (Matt. 19:18-19; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20 cf. Ex. 20:12-16; Deut. 5:16-20).