

FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A DYNAMIC DISCIPLE

1. A Dynamic Disciple BELIEVES that Jesus Christ is God and man and came into the world for the salvation of all

- ◆ “That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.” 1Tim 4:10
- ◆ “Believing is an act of the intellect assenting to the divine truth by command of the will moved by God through grace.” Catechism of the Catholic Church #155
- ◆ “Catholics find meaning and hope in Jesus Christ, whom God the Father has sent into the world for the salvation of all peoples.” USCCB, Beliefs and Teachings

2. A Dynamic Disciple GROWS in Jesus Christ

- ◆ “Grow in your grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.” *2 Pt 3:18*
- ◆ “To live, grow, and persevere in the faith until the end we must nourish it with the word of God; we must beg the Lord to increase our faith, it must be working through charity, abounding in hope, and rooted in the faith of the Church.” Catechism of the Catholic Church #162
- ◆ “This is crucial: we must be converted – and we must continue to be converted: We must let the Holy Spirit change our lives! We must respond to Jesus Christ, and we must be open to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit who will continue to convert us as we follow Christ. If our faith is alive, it will be aroused again and again as we mature as disciples.” USCCB, What is Evangelization? In Go and Make Disciples

3. A Dynamic Disciple GATHERS in Christian Community

- ◆ “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Heb 10:24-25
- ◆ “The word “Church” means “convocation.” It designates the assembly of those whom God’s Word “convokes,” i.e. gathers together to form the People of God, and who themselves, nourished with the Body of Christ, become the Body of Christ.” Catechism of the Catholic Church #777
- ◆ To create a culture of witness, we must live explicit lives of discipleship. Fortunately, one does not become a disciple of Christ on his or her own initiative. The work of the Holy

Spirit within the Christian community forms the person as a disciple of Christ. One seeking to learn how to be a disciple of Christ does so through apprenticeship.”

USCCB, Disciples Called to Witness Pt. IV

4. A Dynamic Disciple **LOVES** as Jesus loved

♦ “A new commandment I give you, that you love one another; as I have loved you.”
Jn 18:34

♦ “Charity is the greatest social commandment. It respects others and their rights. It requires the practice of justice, and it alone makes us capable of it. Charity inspires a life of self-giving: ‘Whoever seeks to gain his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it (cf. Lk 17:33).’”

Catechism of the Catholic Church # 1889

♦ “There is a temptation to empty the words ‘love your enemies’ of meaning, to make them innocuous. Pope Benedict XVI, in *Deus Caritas Est*, said, ‘In a world where the name of God is sometimes associated with vengeance or even a duty of hatred and violence, this message [that God is Love] is both timely and significant.’”

USCCB, Do Christians Love their enemies Even Now? 1

5. A Dynamic Disciple **LEADS** others to Jesus

♦ “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.”
Mt 28:18b-19

♦ The disciples of Christ must not only keep the faith and live on it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it.”
Catechism of the Catholic Church # 1816

♦ “We must evangelize because the Lord Jesus commanded us to do so. He gave the Church the unending task of evangelizing as a restless power, to stir and to stimulate all its actions until all nations have heard his Good News and until every person has become his disciple”
USCCB, Go Make Disciples, 28



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