



CONNECT: WE FOLLOW TOGETHER

“May you be covered in the dust of your rabbi’s feet.” Blessing

- **Jesus Described Himself as the Way** – John 14:6

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

- To follow Jesus wasn’t to adopt abstract theology but to walk in *His* way—to pattern life on his example, teachings, and sacrificial love.

- **A disciple’s job was to take on that yoke “the way” and embody it.**

*“Jesus said, ‘Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my **yoke** upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my **yoke** is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.’”*
Matthew 11:28-30

- **Discipleship is about being with Him & others “Come, follow me.”**

“For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”
Matthew 18:20

- **Following Jesus begins with the call to live in community.**

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”
John 13:34-35

- **Disciples today are still called to follow The Way**

“Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do...Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God... Carefully determine what pleases the Lord... So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.”
Ephesians 5:2,10,15-17

- **For us to be “people of the Way” is to:**

- Walk so closely with Jesus that we reflect His character.
- Learn His teachings not just to know them but to live them out.
- Commit to community, disciples always followed their rabbi together

KEY TAKE AWAYS: Be Connected to Jesus & Others

- We Need Community to Truly Follow Jesus’ Way of Living
- Church Is More Than a Service—It’s Shared Life
- Living Out Jesus’ Love Requires Connecting, Serving, and Generosity

To follow Jesus is to walk with His people. The Christian life is designed for community, because that’s how Jesus lived and taught it.

Jesus, the True Vine – John 15

15 “I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. **2** He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. **3** You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. **4** Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. **6** Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. **7** But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! **8** When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

9 “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. **10** When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. **11** I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! **12** This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. **13** There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. **16** You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. **17** This is my command: Love each other.

