

## The Appearance of True Discipleship 02-18-19 AM

The Persecutions of the early church put many disciples on trial for the crime of being a disciple. Around 111 AD the Roman Governor Pliny wrote a letter to Emperor Trajan asking for direction in how to prosecute Christians. He asked: 1. Distinction on the age of a Christian? 2. Will denying Christ merit pardon? 3. Is the name "Christian" alone enough? The emperor's response was that a Christian ought to be something that can be seen and testified to by others.

Jesus would agree. In John 13:35 He said "all men will know that you are My disciples....". In other words, Jesus said people can see discipleship. What does that mean? What does discipleship look like? It is not something physical of course, like those who wear special garments or tags on themselves

### 1. Love for one another

John 13:35 *"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another"*

Acts 2:46-47 – People appreciated their love

2 Corinthians 8:20-21 – Honorable among men

Hebrews 10:20-25 – Seen gathering together

### 2. Keeping His Word

1 John 2:5 *"But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him."*

2 Corinthians 9:13 – Glorify God for obedience

### 3. Good Works

Matthew 5:14,16 *"You are the light of the world..... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven"*

1 Peter 2:12 – Glorify God for patience

### 4. Accurately Handling the Word

2 Timothy 2:15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

1 Peter 3:15 – Ready with an answer

Ephesians 4:29 – Ready with words of grace

Consider then what it means to be on trial as a Disciple. If you were charged with being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict? Would your friends and neighbors testify to your love of other Christians? To your obedience to the Word of God? To your love of the Word of God?