

What Disciples Do

We can look at 1 Jn 3:16 and see what a disciple of Yahshua is all about. Also in Jn 15:12. The same John wrote both of these, therefore he carries over a lot of what is in the gospel into the epistle and explains it so we can understand more of what our Master said. 1 Jn 3:16 — *We know what love is...* We understand what is the essential love — that He laid down His life for us, therefore we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. That is what a disciple is. He is a lifetime pupil in training for the kingdom. His life is that of a learner — to learn how to be responsible to do things in this life so that he will be responsible in the next age. We have many little things to be faithful in now: drinking our water, not biting our fingernails anymore, not cracking our knuckles, how we conduct ourselves, the way we do aerobics, and especially how we love one another.

You see in Jn 15:12 the new commandment, “*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*” That is His commandment. And we know that if we love Him, we keep His commandments (verse 13). You lay down your life — you lay down your weapons — you lay down your life, sacrifice your life, for your brother. That is what disciples do.

To “lay” means to put your life in the proper place. When you lay something down somewhere, you put it in the proper position so it can be used. To *lay* is to arrange in required order for use. In Hebrew and in the Old Testament, it really meant a great deal to lay down your life. That is what it is to be a disciple.

Hasah: 1 Jn 3:7 is talking about obeying that commandment in verse 4. If we don't practice that law of love, we are practicing lawlessness.