

Is It Only Intellectual People Who Can Become Disciples Of Jesus Christ?

John 3:16-17 [NIV] *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”*

Salvation from eternal death is **for all people** who will ever live.

John 6:44 [NIV] *“No-one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

This seems to place a limit on who can be with Christ to become His disciple.

Ephesians 1:3-5 [NIV] *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For **he chose us** in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love **he predestined us** to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, **in accordance with his pleasure and will**”*

The key to understanding this choice that God makes is in the last few words.

“In accordance with His [God the Father] pleasure and will.”

What helps us to understand the Will of God?

Romans 1:20 [NIV] *“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”*

This is a key verse that points us towards our understanding of many spiritual concepts.

God is spirit and we are flesh and blood, physical, an immense gulf exists between the two.

God, to help us under His world, His mind, has given us physical examples of what is spirit, and spiritual.

It is a physical Father who initiates the creation of children in the physical world.

A physical father does not initiate all his children at the same time, he chooses when they will be born.

God our Spiritual Father works in the same way, He planned the time scale in which His family would be created before the first human was created. All humans will have their opportunity to be called by their Spiritual Father, most after a resurrection back to physical life.

John 15:16 [NIV] *“You did not choose me, but I chose you and **appointed you** to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”*

Those whom the Father chose at this time, Christ then called to be His disciples.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 [NIV] *“**Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, so that no-one may boast before him. It is because of him that you***

are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God, that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

Such a statement in no way limits those whom God calls at this time to the well-educated, intellectual or of noble birth.

In fact, to call a person of wealth and position in this world would make it far more difficult for them to enter into the Kingdom [created family] of God.

Matthew 19:16-23 [NIV] *"Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments." "Which ones?" the man enquired. Jesus replied, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honour your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbour as yourself.'" "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. **Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven."***

Riches or high intellect can make it very difficult to accept a need for a Saviour.

The example of two of Christ's first disciples.

Acts 4:13 [NIV] *"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that **they were unschooled, ordinary men**, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus."*

Peter and John before Christ came into their lives were humble, hard working fishermen with no formal education.

Yet God used them both in a very powerful way.

Acts 4:4 [NIV] *"But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand."*

About 5,000 people became believers at this time as a result of the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Acts 4:8 [NIV] *"Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people!"*

Becoming a disciple of Christ does not depend on what we are when we are called by God. What matters is how we allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through us.

Be encouraged by these words.