

How Do You Live the Christian Life???

BEP Theme 2007-2008

Gospel Christianity 2: Practices

**Jesus' most common description for living the Christian life:
"Follow ME"**

September Question

How Do You Follow Jesus??

Jesus' teaching is clear....[the Demands of Discipleship](#)



How Do You Follow Jesus? The Demands of a Disciple

- Luke 9:23-25** 23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must _____ himself and take up his _____ and _____ me.
- 24 For whoever wants to _____ his life will lose it, but whoever _____ his life for _____ will save it.
- 25 What good is it for a man to _____ the whole world, and yet _____ or forfeit his very _____?

How Do You Follow Jesus? The Demands of a Disciple

The Cost of Discipleship (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

Luke 14:26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters-- yes, even his own life-- he cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:27 And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:33 In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

The cost of following Jesus:

- Total allegiance to Jesus that recalibrates all the normal allegiances of life
- Jesus becomes the non-negotiable, supreme allegiance of your heart



How Do You Follow Jesus? The Demands of a Disciple

The Cost of Discipleship

Total, non-negotiable allegiance to Jesus that recalibrates all the normal allegiances of life

Luke 14:26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters he cannot be my disciple.

Matthew 10:37 "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;

First century followers of Jesus would experience this cost

- If you loved family more, you would not follow Jesus
- If you loved your own life, you would not follow Jesus



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The Cost of Discipleship

Total, non-negotiable allegiance to Jesus that recalibrates all the normal allegiances of life

Luke 14:26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters – **yes, even his own life** – he cannot be my disciple.

Well Jesus, what about positive self-image?!?!?!?!?

The Point: Your allegiance to Jesus will recalibrate your self-identity

Your identity will not be driven by allegiance to your own glory & honor, but by allegiance to the glory & honor of Jesus



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The Cost of Discipleship

Total, non-negotiable allegiance to Jesus that recalibrates all the normal allegiances of life

Luke 14:33 In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

Every area of your life must be surrendered in non-negotiable allegiance to Jesus

Luke 14:33 He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

I'm very serious about what I'm telling you!!!



How Do You Follow Jesus? The Demands of a Disciple

What is powerful enough to create such total allegiance in the human heart???

A great allegiance grows out of a great love

John 14:15 If you love me, you will do what I command.

The love Jesus demands is not merely willful choice to do what is right regardless of how you feel...

...because He compares the love to an affection that is deep & strong

Love is doing...but it is more than doing...also delight in Jesus



How Do You Follow Jesus? The Demands of a Disciple

What is powerful enough to create such total allegiance in the human heart???

A great allegiance grows out of a great love

Augustine...

“Freedom is to be so in love with God and His ways that the very experience of choice is transcended.”

...to be so in love with Christ that your heart has no choice but to do what pleases and honors Him



How Do You Follow Jesus? The Demands of a Disciple

Where does that great love for Jesus come from??

“we love, because He first loved us“ *1 John 4:*

Beware of so dwelling on the freeness of Jesus Christ's love,
that you neglect the wonder of *the costliness of His love*

Jesus came to pay a great cost...

Mark 10:45 *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Jesus devotion to the Father's will was compelled by His love for the Father

John 17:4 *I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.*



How Do You Follow Jesus? The Demands of a Disciple

You begin following Jesus alone

You experience following Jesus as a journey

You grow in your understanding of what this total allegiance to Jesus looks like in your life

- **That growing involves dying... “carry your cross”**
- **That growing involves living like you never lived before**

You journey with others

Though you begin the journey alone, you do not continue alone



