

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

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THE TRUE NATURE OF A DISCIPLE

TRUE GOSPEL, REAL DISCIPLES

# Why does Jesus make it so unappealing to follow him?

*“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.”*

*“Whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”*

*“Those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciple.”*

*(Luke 14.26, 27, 33)*

# WHY JESUS SPOKE AS HE DID

*Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.*

GALATIANS 5.24

Jesus declared that one must hate his own life, recognizing its spiritual worthlessness (repentance), and enter into his life: the cross-centered, Spirit-led, Christ-life (following him).

*... all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. . . . The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

ROMANS 6.3-4, 10-11

## TRULY BORN AGAIN

*Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.*

JOHN 3.5

When one is truly born again, there will be evidence of “Spirit-ual” life—

- ▶ a new “Spirit-ual” identity in Christ (cf. *2 Corinthians 5.17*);
- ▶ awareness of “Spirit-ual” union with Christ (cf. *Galatians 2.20*; *John 15.5*);
- ▶ a desire to live the Spirit-oriented Christ-life (cf. *Romans 8.9-14*).

*Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.*

1 PETER 2.1

## WHO DO YOU OBEY?

*But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance.*

ROMANS 6.17

► A disciple is a follower, a learner, one who strives to be like someone who is esteemed. Therefore, one who is truly “in” Christ desires to be taught (cf. Acts 2.42) so that he can live the “Way of Christ”.

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

COLOSSIANS 2.6-7

- ▶ The necessity for being taught and the goal of being taught is to become “perfect in Christ”–

*He (“Christ in you, the hope of glory”) is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.*

COLOSSIANS 1.28-29

- ▶ A true disciple of Jesus is one who has embraced him as “Lord”–one who is determined to follow him into the fullness of his “way.”

*What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him not having a righteousness of my own . . . but that which is through faith in Christ.*

PHILIPPIANS 3.8-9

► A true disciple understands that his sinful nature cannot please God, and therefore longs to surrender himself to the work of the Holy Spirit, desiring to be more like Christ and enabled to live for Christ.

*Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

COLOSSIANS 3.9-10

*Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.*

ROMANS 8.12-14

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In reality, the call of Jesus to hate one's life and take up their cross to follow Him is truly the most wonderful invitation that anyone could ever be given. It is an invitation that is exclusive and one that invites us to exchange what is worthless to gain what all the wealth of the world could never obtain. How have you responded to your invitation? Who are you following?