

## FOLLOW THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

John 21:18-22

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** It is one thing to "say" that one is a follower of Jesus and another to actually be a full time follower. Peter was always talking about Jesus being "number one" and how he would never let Jesus down, but talk is cheap as everyone knows. Peter didn't follow through with all his "talk" about his loyalty and such to the Lord Jesus the night Jesus was betrayed and taken prisoner. Peter defended the Lord with his sword for a moment, which was commendable, but later on as Jesus was on trial, Peter was warming himself by a fire in the courtyard where Jesus was being tried and one of the servants there asked Peter if he wasn't one of Jesus' followers to which Peter denied and was later approached twice more and each time he denied being associated with Jesus. So Peter didn't "walk his talk" all the time. Later on after Jesus' resurrection, Jesus was with Peter and John and Jesus was telling the two what was going to happen and Jesus told Peter, that it didn't matter about John, but that he (Peter) was to **"...follow thou me...."** That is exactly what Jesus expects of EVERY one who believes in Him. Believers are to FOLLOW JESUS.

### I. THE BELIEVER'S MAIN THING IN LIFE IS TO FOLLOW THE LORD JESUS

1. For some, being a believer, a Christian, is being saved, eternity secured and that is all, but there is something else and that is that to believe on Jesus Christ is to FOLLOW Him.  
- **Matthew 4:18-22; 16:24-26; 19:20-22**
2. Following the Lord Jesus is a characteristic of Faith.
  - The main, primary business of a believer's life is to follow the Lord Jesus.
  - The one thing a believer is to focus on is to walk in the footsteps of the Lord, doing what He did as far as possible.
  - A "disciple" is one who learns how to live the life his/her teacher has.
    - It is getting to be "what" one's teacher is.
  - Christianity is more than believing the doctrine about Jesus, it is actually following the Lord.
3. Jesus has given every believer a place, position and gifts in which to serve Him, which nobody else has.
  - No matter what one's earthly vocation in life is, if that person is a Christian, then that person is first of all the servant of the Lord Jesus.
  - God has put YOU where YOU are with abilities and means to do what He wants and in order to be and do what the Lord wants, one has to FOLLOW HIM.

### II. TO FOLLOW THE LORD JESUS, ONE MUST PUT EVERYTHING UNDER THE LORD'S WILL

1. To follow the Lord Jesus one must not be concerned about what others are to do or to be.
  - Believers are to work together for the Lord's cause, but each individual believer is accountable to the Lord, not to each other.
  - Each believer is to be busy in his/her own responsibilities, ministries, faithfulness, etc. and not be concerned about whether others are being obedient to the Lord.
  - Disciples are to help each other serve the Lord, but they are not to try to "boss" or direct others in what they are supposed to be doing for the Lord.
  - No believer is responsible for what God has called another believer to do - Mind one's own business!  
- **Romans 14:4**
2. To follow the Lord Jesus is to not be concerned about foolish and deep theological questions.
  - Where did evil start?
  - What the difference is between divine and human responsibilities.

- The mysteries of prophecy.
  - The secret things of God.
3. To follow the Lord Jesus is to not be concerned with one's own personal interests, needs, etc. One must lose his/her life to the Lord in order to save.
- A believer must follow the Lord whether his/her family does or not.
  - A believer must follow the Lord, regardless of personal interests.
  - A believer must follow the Lord regardless of personal expense.
  - A believer must follow the Lord willingly. (*2 Timothy 2:8-10*)

### **III. TO FOLLOW THE LORD JESUS, ONE MUST MAKE THAT HIS/HER LIFELONG OCCUPATION**

1. When the Lord Jesus tells those who believe in Him to follow Him completely, totally, regardless, His command is most reasonable. How so?
- Jesus bought the believer. (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*)
    - Shall that bought believer take that which belongs to the Lord and waste it selfishly?
  - The powers of the believer are very limited.
    - Every person knows his/her own limitations but the Lord can supply with so much more.
  - The believer's life is relatively short, limited on earth.
    - *1 Corinthians 7:29*
    - No matter how long a person lives on this earth, it is not very long and not near long enough to accomplish all that needs to be done for the Lord.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. What if every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ did devote his/her entire life to following the Lord Jesus in every way? What would happen? If every believer obeyed the Lord's command and did exactly what the Lord wanted each believer to do?
2. It is not any believer's responsibility to tell another believer what he/she ought to be doing other than to be a faithful follower and encourage each other in that way, to encourage.
3. Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are to be witnesses for Him.
  - Believers in the Lord Jesus are to follow the Lord as He commands.
4. If a believer follows the Lord Jesus Christ by faith NOW, it won't be that long before that believer will be able to follow the Lord Jesus Christ to his/he prepared home in heaven. (*John 13:36*)
5. Christian, it is not an option whether to follow the Lord Jesus or not - it is a command!