

NOT EVERYONE CAN BE A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

Luke 14:33

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Mistakenly many call themselves a "disciple" of Jesus Christ. Sadly, not every one who has been saved is a true "disciple" for Jesus laid out the terms of being a disciple of His. He said, "*...Whosoever he be of you that foersaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple...*" (Luke 14:33). It would seem that all Christians would be called "disciples" but not every Christian meets Jesus' standards and qualifications. Saved, yes, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, yes, but a disciple of Jesus? No. What is involved in being a disciple of Jesus Christ? One must forsake all that he/she has and is according to Jesus.

I. WHAT IT DOES NOT MEAN TO FORSAKE ALL FOR CHRIST

1. It does not mean the abandonment of one's possessions and friends to go off on a missionary trip.
2. It does not mean that one must get rid of all his/her possessions in order to be a disciple of Christ.
3. It does not mean that one must give up worldly things in exchange for being able to be a disciple of Jesus.

II. WHAT IT DOES MEAN TO FORSAKE ALL FOR CHRIST

1. It means a radical change of heart from being selfish to being benevolent.
 - It is forsaking self-interest, giving up self-gratification and adopting the ways of Christ.
2. It means getting rid of the idea of self-ownership with all one's heart and life.
 - One cannot "do his/her own thing" and be a disciple of Christ for Christ must come first.
3. It means the giving up claims of owning anything and not calling anything one's own, that everything is God's and that one is merely the steward of what God has given.
4. It means recognizing that everything one has, is, his/her life, body, soul, time, possessions, friends, all belong to God and everything one may have he/she is a steward of.
5. It means that one recognizes that he/she has no right to dispose of anything in his/her possession except by God's order.
6. It means being in a state of mind in which one consults God about everything.
7. It means everything a person does is out of love for and to God.
8. It means that one joyfully gives up all he/she is/has willingly to God.
9. It means that one has completely, entirely consecrated him/herself to God, giving God all that one has and is.

III. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

1. A disciple is a pupil of Christ and Jesus Christ is the teacher.

2. A disciple is a Christian who is devoted to Jesus Christ and follows His example.

IV. FORSAKING ALL IS A NECESSARY CONDITION OF BEING A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

1. **"...Whosoever he be of you, that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple..."**
2. It is necessary to divine teaching:
 - Renouncing self as the rule of one's life and entire consecration to Christ's service opens one up to divine teaching.
 - One must have the same feelings and views as Jesus to understand His teachings.
 - One will not study God's Word unless he/she feels the same way about things as God does.
 - One will not be honest with God unless there is a complete, total surrender to His will.
 - One will not be persistent, diligent in studying God's word unless he/she forsakes all.
 - One cannot understand the teaching of Jesus about self-denial unless he/she forsakes all.
 - One will become resistant when Jesus rebukes and corrects unless he/she forsakes all.
 - One will never understand the what the Cross means unless he/she also carries a "cross."

V. NO CHRISTIAN IS A TRUE DISCIPLE OF CHRIST UNTIL HE/SHE FORSAKES ALL

1. Forsaking all is a very clear condition of being a disciple of Christ.
2. Becoming a Christian involves a change of mind and act of trust/faith and therefore a radical change of heart, bringing about a new birth, thus the start of becoming a "disciple" of Christ.
3. Nothing short of believing in Jesus Christ is being obedient to God.
4. To profess that one is a "disciple" of Christ without forsaking all he/she has/is is a lie and is tempting God.
5. It is tempting to God to ask for understanding of His Word or ask Jesus Christ to teach and show one the right way unless one has forsaken all.
6. Any profession of "being a disciple of Christ" without entirely forsaking all is dishonorable to Him.
 - **"...I would that thou were cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth..."**

CONCLUSION:

1. It is one thing to be saved, baptized, indwelt by the Holy Spirit and be a member of a local Church and to be a genuine, true, disciple of Christ. A Christian, yes, born again, yes, going to heaven, yes, BUT a "disciple" of Christ? ONLY those who have forsaken all can be true disciples.
2. How much have YOU given up? Can YOU be called a genuine, true disciple of Christ?
 - Have you forsaken all?
3. Talk is cheap but actions speak louder than words. Does your life clearly show that you have forsaken all and God is in absolute control of all that you have and are?

