

## A CERTAIN LAW IS INVOLVED IN FOLLOWING JESUS

### Mark 8:35

**Introduction:** There are some things in life that we live by whether we like it or not, whether we even know about them or not, such as the "laws of nature," (gravity), and then there are our legal laws which regulate our governments and businesses and such. There are also some "laws" that Jesus mentioned but perhaps we never thought of what He said as being "laws" yet they are involved in governing our spiritual lives and happiness in the Lord.

- *Galatians 6:7-8 - "sowing and reaping"*

- *Romans 6:23 - "wages of sin is death - salvation is through Jesus Christ and is a free gift"*

- *Mark 8:35 - "saving one's life involves losing it, if for the right reason, that being Jesus Christ"*

- *Countless more examples in God's Word*

### I. JESUS LIVED BY THE PRINCIPLE (LAW) OF SELF-SACRIFICE

1. Jesus asked His disciples to leave what they were doing and follow Him. He had just done so.
2. Jesus asked His disciples to put Him before their families. He had just done so.
3. Jesus asked His disciples to give up their safety to being in danger. He had just done so.
4. Jesus became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross that He might be our Savior.  
*(Philippians 2:7-8)*  
- He glorified God, the Father, provided salvation for mankind, and experienced the highest possible destiny for His life.
5. This principle of "self-sacrifice" is not new to us, soldiers, athletes, etc., all of us know that the person who gives his/her best does right.
6. John the Baptist lived by this principle: *"...He must increase, but I must decrease..." (John 3:30)*
7. The Priest and Levite did not live by this principle as they by-passed the injured man on the roadside.  
*(Luke 10:30-36)*
8. The rich, young, ruler did not live by this principle as he went away saddened when Jesus told him to go sell all that he had and give it to the needy. *(Matthew 19:16-22)*

### II. TO LIVE A RICH, FULL, HAPPY CHRISTIAN LIFE, ONE MUST LIVE BY THIS LAW

1. If one would be a true follower of Jesus Christ, then he/she must say NO to selfish self and say YES to Jesus Christ.
2. One must say NO to his/her natural love of ease and comfort.
3. One must say NO to every line of action that would be based on selfish self-seeking and self-will.

4. One must say NO to the instincts and the desires which urge us to touch, taste and handle the forbidden things.
5. One must spend him/herself deeply in the service of the Lord Jesus and in the interest of those for whom the Lord Jesus died.
6. One must say YES to the will of God and to the call for self-giving love.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. There are those who think they are serving the Lord God by retreating to some private, secret place and spending the rest of their lives in solitary confinement, meditating on the scriptures and praying countless repeated prayers all day long.
2. Jesus never gave instructions for His followers to withdraw from people, on the contrary, He spent His ministry constantly with people, all kinds of people.
3. Jesus did give instructions on how to be the kind of follower He wanted and it was a law of self-sacrifice. A law to "give up" things for the sake of bringing others to Jesus and salvation.
4. What have you given up for the Lord Jesus? What have you given up to be a faithful witness for Him?
5. Is your Christian life the best that it can ever be? What changes do you need to make if it isn't?