

Designed to Fly

Sunday February 2nd, 2020

He Is, We Are (Mat. 16:24)

"Discipleship is the process by which we become more like Jesus by giving our "yes" to Him."
Or... "Discipleship is the process of becoming who Jesus would be if He were you." ~ Dallas Willard

Is it possible to adhere to the "Christian religion" and not be a disciple of Jesus? Why or why not?

"There is a common, worldly kind of Christianity in this day, which many have, and think they have enough – a cheap Christianity which offends nobody, and requires no sacrifice – which costs nothing, and is worth nothing." ~ JC Ryle

Why is Christianity that "gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, worth nothing"?

A Dangerous Compromise (2 Tim. 3:1-5)

What are some modern philosophies that want to draw you into their orbit?

What are these philosophy's endgame (what are they trying to sell you or accomplish)?

In 2 Timothy 3:1-5, Paul warns his protégé Timothy about what can happen when we begin down this road of compromise. What are the resulting actions/behaviours?

The Skylark and the Worms

Why did the skylark sell his feathers for worms?

When we compromise our allegiance to the radical way of Jesus, what do we give up?

The Results of Compromise

From Barna Research Group's book, "Faith for Exiles." Results for the typical American churchgoer:

- **32%** believe, "Human beings are essentially broken & flawed because they have rebelled against God."
- **56%** believe, "Jesus was crucified and raised from the dead to conquer sin and death."
- **43%** believe, "God's ultimate plan for the world is to set things right and renew all things."
- **76%** believe in heaven while only **68%** believe in hell.

Wrong belief leads to wrong thinking:

- **49%** think that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and contains truth.
- **41%** think that the Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches.
- **39%** think that the Bible contains everything I need to know and live a meaningful life.

Wrong thinking leads to wrong living:

- **34%** believe they have a personal responsibility to share Jesus with others.
- **35%** believe that "part of the major purpose in life is to serve others."
- **46%** believe that "sex is designed by God to be between a man and a woman in marriage."
- **50%** believe that abortion should be legal in all/most cases.

Radical Discipleship (Acts 4:8-14)

Jesus modelled a discipleship that transformed His disciple's lives. Read Acts 4:8-14. Why was the Jewish Council "astonished" at the words and actions of Peter and John?

How were these two disciples living super natural lives of impact and outcome (see Acts 3-4)? Do you think their lives were, "rich and satisfying"?

A Change of Course (Rom. 12:2)

In order to recapture what Jesus originally intended for a disciple to be, we need to be willing to allow Jesus to transform these 6 areas of our lives/beings:

1. Transformed Minds – Believing What Jesus Believed
2. Transformed Character – Living the Way Jesus Lived
3. Transformed Relationships – Loving as Jesus Loved
4. Transformed Habits – Pursuing the Practices of Jesus
5. Transformed Service – Ministering as Jesus Ministered
6. Transformed Influence – Leading the Way Jesus Led

Jesus can begin this transformation with anyone – feathers or no feathers. The result will be a "rich and satisfying life!" Begin this process of transformation by saying yes to Him!

Take It Home:

1. What areas of your life are you most prone to compromise? *Believing the world's take on reality rather than Jesus' take on it...*
2. Has your Christianity felt like a caged existence rather than a free one? Why do you think that is?
3. Knowing that much compromise starts as a result of "wrong belief", what place does the study of the Bible have in your life?
4. Are you willing to have your life transformed by submitting your mind, your character, your relationships, your habits, your service and your influence to Jesus?
5. What do you need to do in order to begin this process?