

Sunday, September 29, 2013

THE DISCIPLE'S CROSS

Luke 9:23-26

A disciple of Christ is one who makes Christ the Lord of His life.

Luke 9:23 - *And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

Mark 8:34 - *And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

Jesus said we are to do three things:

1. Deny self

- Arneomai = disregard one's own interest

2. Take up our cross

- Our cross, not Christ's cross
- It implies the standing ready to endure whatever is necessary
- Take up – airo = to bear / to identify with

3. Follow me

- Akoloutheo = to follow in companionship
- To do the things Christ did / to imitate Christ

Christ gave the disciples two things:

1. **A prayer to pray** – Matthew 6:9-13
2. **A Cross to Bear** – Luke 9:23

In the Disciples Cross there are Four Disciplines and Five Ministries

John 15:5 - *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

Luke 9:23 - *And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

- Taking up your cross puts Christ in the center of your life

Luke 14:27 - *And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*

- Bearing your cross daily involves taking up a redemptive ministry.

I. The Discipline of the Word

John 8:31-32 - *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

- How do we know that we are His disciples? By continuing in His Word – This leads to the ministry of teaching and preaching.

II. The Discipline of Prayer

John 15:7 - *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

- The ministry of worship or intercession

III. The Discipline of Fellowship

- Fellowship with believers

John 13:34-35 - *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.³⁵ By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another*

- Jesus said that the way to show the world we are His disciples is to love one another – the ministry of nurture
- A church is a body of baptized believers who have covenanted together to carry out Christ's ministry in the world

IV. The Discipline of Witness

- Witnessing is sharing Christ

John 15:8 - *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

- Witnessing is the natural outgrowth of living in Christ

Matthew 4:19 - *And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

- Witnessing is the ministry of evangelism. Living in the Word leads to a ministry of teaching and preaching. All of this adds up to a ministry of service

II Timothy 2:21 - *If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.*