

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP



DISCIPLESHIP AND THE CROSS



- ⌚ To be a true disciple, the Christian must experience *both* suffering *and* rejection. This is what is meant by taking up the Cross.
- ⌚ To take up the Cross is not an act of self-will. It is simply the choice to accept whatever form and degree of suffering and rejection God offers to us. We don't have to go looking for it.
- ⌚ Enduring the Cross is not an accident or a tragedy. It is a necessity, and a joyful one at that.

DISCIPLESHIP AND THE CROSS



- ⌚ Are you willing to get personal? Where specifically in your life do you suspect Christ is inviting you to take up the Cross and follow Him?
- ⌚ Bonhoeffer asserts that real submission to Christ has to be completely distinguishable from “ordinary life.” Would you agree?
- ⌚ What are the temptations and distractions here?
Are there times and places when we refuse the Cross and practice a Christian life that is indistinguishable from an ordinary worldly life?
Are there times we swing too far in the opposite direction and “take up the Cross” in a way that’s really self-martyrdom rather than true discipleship?

BEARING ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS



- 🕒 Part of taking up our Cross is bearing one another's burdens, up to and including bearing one another's sins, without regard to fairness.
- 🕒 What does it mean to bear another's sins?
- 🕒 Does this differ from enabling others to persist in abuse and victimization? If so, how?

DISCIPLESHIP AND THE INDIVIDUAL

Discipleship demands a complete and total breach with any and all things of the world (people and goods). We can have no “immediacy” with others or possessions.

Only after such a breach can new connections be rebuilt and new connections made, all with Christ as the Mediator.

We can truly be individuals only when none of our attachments are immediate and direct but all of them have Christ as Mediator.

DISCIPLESHIP AND THE INDIVIDUAL

- ⌚ Once again, are you willing to get personal? Are there attachments in your life that feel immediate, that do not have Christ as Mediator? In other words are there people, activities, or things that you love entirely directly and not through the divine Giver?
- ⌚ What would it mean to allow a breach in these attachments and let them be regenerated in such a way that they are a New Creation with Christ as the Mediator?

Hebrews 8:6

JESUS CHRIST



But now he has obtained a more excellent ministry, by so much as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, which on better promises has been given as law.

DISCIPLESHIP AND THE INDIVIDUAL, APPLIED TO COMMUNITY

- ⌚ Are there ways in which the communities we inhabit (family, church, company, nation) have attachments that are too immediate? How would it look for there to be a breach in these and for them to be regenerated with Christ as mediator?



THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

- 🕒 Bonhoeffer emphasizes the need for a breach in all our immediate attachments, but what about the areas in which we're doing the opposite: treating other people, other places, other ideas as being so distant from us that there is no connection, and no hope of connection, whatsoever?
- 🕒 What might it look like to accept Jesus as mediator in these situations and find connections we never imagined possible or desirable?

