

# “True” Disciples of Christ

## Introduction

### Song # 454

Mark 8:34-38 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever **desires** to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

1. **This text of scripture makes the effort to show the “TRUE” value of one's soul.**
2. **It also has to do with our attitude. The attitude of really trying to follow Jesus is characteristic of all “TRUE” disciples.**
3. **What is a disciple? “A pupil or follower who helps to spread his Master's teaching in word and in example of life.”**
4. **In this text of scripture we can read about two different philosophies of life.**
  - A. **One is: Assert yourself, do as you please (when able). You will be noticed and respected because of your power and demands.**
  - B. **The other is: Deny yourself, let another (in this case, Jesus) direct your thoughts, words and life.**

## Deny Yourself

1. **Jesus DID NOT say, “deny yourself certain things”, but He did say, “deny yourself.”**
  - A. **Many are willing to deny themselves a few hours of sleep on Sunday, or even certain sinful pleasures.**
  - B. **But they are not willing to really deny themselves.**
  - C. **To deny yourself means to submit to the guidance of Jesus in mind, body and soul. Notice:**

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

2. **This takes us back to the idea of “What would Jesus do under these circumstances?”**
  - A. **My own selfish motives and desires must be stifled if we are to progress as a “TRUE” disciple of Christ.**
  - B. **We sing the song, “let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.” But do we really mean it?**
    - 1) **When we put these words into practice, we are denying our self.**

## Take Up Your Cross

1. **I have read about a denominational preacher who literally carried a cross of wood through the streets of several large cities!**
  - A. **While in Montrose, CO we constantly saw a man bearing a very large cross (on wheels) on the main street.**
    - 1) **These acts are nothing but foolishness.**
2. **Jesus means by "take up your cross" that a "TRUE" disciple would voluntarily accept the responsibility of living as Jesus taught.**
  - A. **Paul writes:**

Romans 6:6-8 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. **Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,**

- 1) **This passage shows that the old body has been crucified and the determination is to no longer serve sin!**

**B. Then in the Galatian letter it says:**

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**

- 1) **This passage is emphasizing that a saint lives, yet it is Christ that is living through him!**

### **3. One is a “new creature” and must be willing to give up the old way of life.**

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

**A. Many “old things” must be put off and “new” must be put on.**

**Colossians 3:5-17**

**B. A disciple of Christ is the “light of the world” (Matthew 5:14) and must let that light shine.**

**C. The “TRUE” disciple of Christ will be one that is recognized by others as a “peculiar” person or as the NKJV says a “special” person.**

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **His own special people**, that you may **proclaim the praises of Him** who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and **purify for Himself His own special people**, zealous for good works.

**1) This does NOT mean that one is an “odd ball!”**

**2) It simply means that he is one that is possessed and used by His master in His service.**

**a) Are we that “TRUE” disciple of Christ?**

## Follow Me

- **Jesus said that we are to follow Him.**
- 1. **A disciple is one that has already been baptized into Christ (Romans 3:3-6). But we must realize – that this is just the beginning!**
- 2. **The “TRUE” disciple must be heading in the direction that has been shown to us by the Lord every day.**

Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; **it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.**

### **Jesus said:**

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

- A. Jesus also said that without Him one could do NOTHING that was pleasing to God.**

John 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

- 3. **In every honorable occupation, one can follow Jesus successfully.**
  - A. We don't have to be a “full time preacher” or a “missionary” as the world uses those terms to be a successful disciple of Christ.**
    - 1) **But we do have to be a “FULL TIME” Christian!**
    - 2) **Each one of us that have been baptized into Christ made a commitment at baptism and now must live up to that commitment.**

## Conclusion

1. **Baptism represents a death to sin and a burial with Christ.**
2. **But it is also a resurrection to a new life.**  
**Romans 6:3-8**
  - A. **As one follows the Lord in daily life, so he shows his sincere discipleship.**
3. **The “TRUE” disciple shares the teaching of the Master in word and manifests them in his daily life.**
4. **Have we really ever become that “TRUE” disciple?**
  - A. **If so, then we will ensure that we deny our self, take up our cross, and follow the Lord!**

