

Relationship: Following Him

(2 28 10)

Summary of Relationship

- **Life is all about love & relationship**
- **Love God is to obey Him (1Jn 5:3-4)**
- **Last week – listen & obey**
- **Been quite a few testimonies**
 - **Last Monday – kid in NY**
- **Jesus said to make disciples, we must teach people to obey**
 - **What we do to help others**
- **Another passage that tells us what we must do ourselves**
 - **if we want to be His follower (disciple)**

Steps to Follow Him

Luke 9:23-26 (NLT)

- **The he (Jesus) said to the crowd, “If any of you want to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up the cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed? If anyone is ashamed of me and my message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in his glory...”**
- **Two things for us to do if we are to follow Him**
 - 1) Turn from our selfish ways (NIV – Deny self)**
 - 2) Take up our cross daily**

Turning from selfish ways?

1) Meaning of 'Turning from selfish ways or deny self'?

- Counter culture
 - World is about self
 - Draw is so strong (especially in America)
 - Advertisements - Billboards, TVs, internet, emails, cars, houses, gas stations, etc.
 - Kirby vacuum
 - Satan's strategy in desert
- Turn from selfish ways – turn from world
 - James 4:4 – friendship with world is hatred God
 - 1John 2:15 – Do not love world.. no love of Father

Turning away from...

1Jn 2:16-17 goes on to say

For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, a pride in our achievements and possessions.

- **Turning from selfish ways (world) is ..**
 - **Turning away from Self desire vs. self-control (Gal 5:22)**
 - **Started with Adam/Eve**
 - **Food, drink, addictions, wants, etc..**
 - **Turning from Self exaltation (pride) vs. humility (James 4:6)**
 - **Authority (Rom 13)**
 - **Turning from Self preservation – I am a somebody**
 - **Anger vs. forgiveness**
 - **“Oh what a wretched man am I”**
 - **Only in Christ**

Step 2 To Following Him

2) Take up cross daily

- Often we think it's about suffering (somewhat true)
- Look at context

Luke 9:23-24 (NLT)

- The he (Jesus) said to the crowd, “If any of you want to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up the cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.”
- Take up cross is the giving of self for many (Rom 5)
- Same as denying self – “throwing away”
 - Heart to give away self for others (Phil 2)
 - High school kids / newspaper & poison

Hanging On to Life

- **Luke 9:24-25 – “If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?”**
 - **My life – transformation (last week)**
 - **Abraham/Isaac – children, jobs, spouses, even ministries**
 - **No benefit in gaining the whole world, if we are lost**

Don't Be Ashamed

Luke 9:26 – “If anyone is ashamed of me and my message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in his glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels.”

- **Why would Jesus talk about being ashamed him?**
 - **When there's greater love for the world (or for self)**
- **What does “being ashamed” look like?**
 - **Friend & daughter**
 - **Co-worker & weekdays – it's personal**
 - **Lie – relationship is not in a place (nor just Sunday)**
- **Work, play, home – we are not to be ashamed**
 - **Not always preaching...Based on hearing the Lord**
 - **Times when Jesus did not want people to share**

Summary

- **Two steps of being a follower:**
 - Turn from selfish ways (Deny self)
 - Take up the cross (Give of self to many)
- **Not the suffering of the cross, but the**
 - Joy to give self to many
 - Freedom from world to no longer hold on to one's life
 - Boldness & joy to share & not be ashamed of
- **Upon His return**
 - Well done good and faithful servant
 - Children saying "This is my dad/mom!"
 - Parents saying "This is my child!"
 - What a privilege – In His Glory

Edification Time

- What spoke to you in this message?
- Pray for one another

