



The Word at Work

Discipleship: Dying to Live

Reading the Word

Key Scriptures: Luke 14:25-35

Key Points:

If we are going to make disciples (Matt.28:18-20), then we must be disciples.

What does it mean to be a disciple?

It must mean that God comes before everything and everyone in our life (v.26).

In fact we must love God even more than we love our own life; and we must take up our cross and follow in (v.27).

Taking up your cross

Taking up our cross does not mean bearing difficulties but preparing to die. A disciple is one who has died to himself and lives for God.

The best description of a disciple is this:

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

Note that in the scripture quoted above, we have already died. If we are in Christ we are already new creations (2 Cor.5:17); we have died to the old life/self and we are raised with Christ that we might live a new life

(Rom.6:1-8). In our minds we have to count it so and start living accordingly (Rom.6:11)

Already dead yet dying daily

Death to self is an already-accomplished reality but it is also a way of life (Luke 9:23; 1 Cor.15:31). Like so much of the Christian life, it is about living in the reality of what has already happened in Christ.

Another description of the Christian disciple is:

*For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, **that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.***

2 Corinthians 5:14 - 15 (NIV)

We are those who no longer live for ourselves but for Jesus. To live by faith in the Son of God is to live with no dependency on self but on the one who died for us was raised from the dead.

So although we have to count ourselves dead, we also must die daily – in the sense of not letting the self dominate us but choosing to let the life of Christ within us to take over. This is daily choice.

All our problems arise when we fail to realise that the old self is dead, and we still try living for self instead of for Jesus.

Doing the Word

How to die to self:

1. quickly
2. quietly
3. without making a big mess (through self-pity)
4. without trying to take anyone else with us when we go
5. without coming back to haunt anyone once we've gone – i.e. don't draw attention to the fact that you're dead; just draw attention to it by the living in resurrection life.

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