



The Cost of Discipleship: What It Means to Follow Jesus The Exchange 29 August 2015

1. What are some things that you “pay dearly for” (in time, finances, or commitment) that you think are worth the sacrifice?
2. Is there a difference between being a believer in Jesus and being a disciple of Jesus?
3. Why does it cost so much to be a disciple of Jesus? Why can't we have the pearl of great price AND all the other stuff? Is God being mean? Is God being arbitrary?
4. Does leaving everything to follow Jesus still apply? Does God still ask the rich young rulers of the world to give it all away and then come and follow him?
5. To what extent do we wrestle today with life issues (money, ego, relationships, career, materialism, etc.) in relationship to the Scriptures? Are we willing to conform every issue in our life to the Word of God, or do we seem to want to avoid wrestling at all costs? When we do wrestle, are we prepared to place ourselves under the authority of His revealed response in His Word?
6. We live in a culture that chafes under almost any concept of authority. “Do your own thing” is the mantra of the day. How might this cultural malaise impact our understanding and willingness to put ourselves under biblical authority? To what extent do we even have a desire to surrender to the authority of Jesus today in the same manner that first-century disciples had a willingness to surrender to their rabbi's interpretive authority?
7. Contrast total surrender to the authority of Jesus with a partial surrender, or an occasional surrender, a convenient surrender, or even token surrender to Him. How would you assess your willingness factor in regards to surrendering all areas of your life to the authority of God's Word? When you do surrender, is it a willing surrender, or a surrender that arises from some form of resentful, obligatory obedience?
8. Are there any areas of your life that are either off limits, or have limited accessibility to the Lordship Authority of Jesus Christ? What are they, and why are they off limits?
9. In today's church culture, our facade of piety, put on with the refined religious behavioural cosmetics of our day, is about the only thing that is observable about us by our pew mates. Thus, during the week, except perhaps by our family, our real spiritual (or secular) life is not observable by others in our respective communities of faith. As a result, others can't really use God's Word in our lives for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness ([II Tim. 3:16](#)). How might this tendency towards Lone Rangerism constrain our spiritual growth and development in maturing us as a disciple of Jesus Christ?
10. On a scale of 1-10, how would you assess these distinctive qualities of being a disciple of Jesus in your life –
 1. Desire, Passion, Submission and Emulation
 2. Community of Intimacy and Transparency
 3. Biblical Literacy and Wrestling with God's Word

(Questions 5-10 from <https://bible.org/article/being-first-century-disciple>)