

# The Way part 11

## Self-Denial in the Day of Hedonism

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The call of an Apprentice: Be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do the things that He did.

How does this look in our secular, modern, post-modern consumer-driven world?

*Luke 9:18-25*

If you want the real good life, then you will need to learn to die to yourself regularly

[“When Christ calls a man, he bids him to die.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#)

Self-Denial in our culture of hedonism

Death then Resurrection/New Life...

This invitation is in all four Gospels to “take up your cross and die to self.”

It is not a one-time invitation, dying to self is meant to be a “way of life” for the follower of Jesus.

*Galatians 5:13-25*

On a daily basis we have to put to death, crucify, all kinds of desires that we carry in the tension of our personhood. It is this “way of the cross” that is foundational to apprenticeship to Jesus and transformation into his image!

[“Self-denial is the overall settled condition of life of the Kingdom of God.” – Dallas Willard](#)

Dying to self alone is the key to the soul’s restoration. Christian Spiritual Formation rests on this as its foundation!

*Luke 9:57-62*

The issue here is these men are settling for a vague, non-committal consumer-oriented faith that wants the benefits of Jesus but without the cost.

*Luke 14:25-33*

How do you talk about self-denial in an age of self-fulfillment?

The great paradox of the Christian life is that it’s in dying that we live. It’s in losing our (false) self that we discover our (true) self, and it’s giving up our desires, that our deepest desires are finally satisfied.

[“You have made us for yourself, O Lord and our heart is restless until it rests in you.” St. Augustine](#)

**Application Questions:**

- How much am I willing to surrender to Jesus?
- What needs to be put to death in my own life?
- How joyful, peaceful, free do I want to be?