

Part 2

Living Internationally for God—With Others

Following Jesus: Meaning, Manner & Motive

Scripture references:

- Romans 12:1-2, Galatians 9:20, John 1:14, Colossians 3:4, Isaiah 60:1-3, Colossians 11:19-22, John 15:5, John 15:16, John 17:17-19, Matthew 16:24-26, Micah 6:8

Romans 12:1-2 sets the stage: present our bodies, renew our minds, refuse worldly conformity.

* Core Issue: Who or what will shape our lives? We must choose godly influences—word, prayer, and fellowship over fleeting experiences.

* Living Internally for God with others hinges on following Jesus personally and corporately.

1) The Meaning of Following Jesus

a) Choosing Christ as Supreme Influenced—Direction, goals, pace

b) Four Diagnostic Questions

1) Transformative: What testimony of Christ's incarnation do people see in me?
(Galatians 12:20)

2) Allurative: Is my life inviting others to sacred depth? (John 1:14; Col 3:4)

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3) Restorative: Do I arise and shine amid darkness? (Isaiah 60:1-3)

4) Representative: Am I a merciful, faithful priest who seeks reconciliation? (Colossians 1:19-22)

* Following Jesus' equals dying to Self (like a sect—does the spraths up) so that Christ's life produces fruit in us.

2) The Manner of Following Jesus

a) Complete dependence - John 15:5 "Apart from me you can do nothing."

b) Willing self subordination - He chose us first (John 15:16), like John the Baptist, we decrease so he can increase.

c) Generous Self sacrifice - Deny self, take up cross, lose life for his sake. (Matthew 16:24-26)

d) Ongoing sanctification - Set apart by truth (John 17:17-19); life oriented around his purposes.

* Routine, resistance, rhythm, reorientation: disciplines create space for grace-driven transformation.

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About this page for me also

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The page features a handwritten note on Christian themes focused on personal reflection and spiritual growth:

1. Restorative: Poses the question, "Do I arise and shine amid darkness?" with Isaiah 60:1-3 cited.

2. Representative: Asks whether one acts as a merciful and faithful priest seeking reconciliation, referencing Colossians 1:19-22.

3. Following Jesus: Compares it to self-sacrifice, allowing Christ's life to produce fruit within.

4. The Manner of Following Jesus:

- Complete Dependence: Asserts that apart from Jesus, one can do nothing (John 15:5).

- Willing Self-Subordination: Emphasizes Jesus choosing first (John 15:16) and the need to decrease so He can increase.

- Generous Self-Sacrifice: Encourages denying self, taking up the cross, and losing life for His sake (Matthew 16:24-26).

- Ongoing Sanctification: Speaks of being set apart by truth (John 17:17-19), with life aligned toward His purposes, fostering transformation through routine and discipline.

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3) The Motivation for Following Jesus

a) Ultimate goal: Glorify God and enjoy Him (Micah 6:8).

b) Understanding God's providence, predestination, and perseverance fuels gratitude and love.

c) Worship is not for personal benefit, but to honor the one who first loved us and saved us.

Key Lessons and Revelations

a) Influence shapes legacy: Immerse in God's scriptures, prayer, and community.

b) Grace and Truth must be kept in balance; Both reveal God's glory through us.

c) Abiding overcomes striving; Fruitfulness flows from union with Christ, not independent effort.

d) TRUE DISCIPLESHIP is Holistic Surrender: thoughts, relationships, resources, ambitions.

Practical Application

1. Establish a daily routine: Begin and end each day in a word of prayer.

2. Push through resistance until new rhythms form; expect fleshly excuses.

3. Carefully select companions: seek believers whose lives display obedience, integrity, service.

4. Practice Merciful Faithfulness: Pursue reconciliation rather than retribution.

5. Offer Generous self-sacrifice of time, money, talents for Kingdom purposes.

6. Frequently "wave the white flag": Consciously surrender plans, family, work, possessions to Christ.

Jesus' call "Follow me" demands everything: direction, attitude, pace, and possession. He sets the destination; we simply stay behind him. The appeal today is clear: raise the white flag, abandon our teenage-like spiritual rebellion, and let Christ be your very life.