

CRUCIFORMITY

life as Jesus intended

Part 1: *Conformity To Christ*

INTRODUCTION – The Goal Of A Christ-follower

Matthew 10:25; Luke 6:40; Romans 8:29

God's goal for us is CONFORMITY TO CHRIST. So when we align our attitudes and actions with this goal, we are working with rather than against God's activity in our lives.

QUALITIES OF A CHRIST-FOLLOWER

1. Identity is an apprentice of and partner with Jesus
2. Actively feeds on truth
3. Engages in authentic community
4. Thinks with the mind of a servant
5. Lives simply and generously
6. Works for peace and reconciliation
7. Committed to helping others follow Jesus

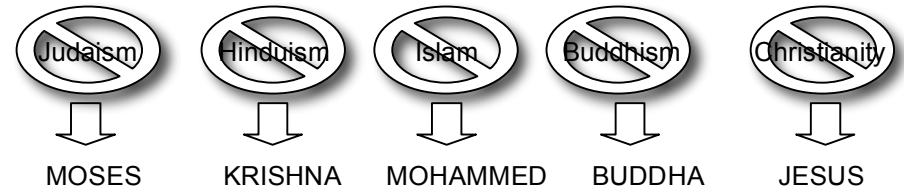
Being an Apprentice of Jesus

The word "disciple" occurs over 250 times in the New Testament.
The word "Christian" is found 3 times.

Matthew 28:18-20

The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who are identified as "Christians" will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ.
~ Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission*

Stop trying to decide which religion to follow, but rather which founder, leader, revealer of truth is worthy of your allegiance.



Galatians 4:19

CONCLUSION – A Fundamental Question

Do you want to be a disciple of Jesus?

The earliest statement of faith was not a confession of the doctrine of the Trinity or the Inerrancy of Scripture, but the simple truth that JESUS IS LORD.

John 13:13; Romans 10:9; 1 Corinthians 12:3

FOR MORE ON THIS TOPIC...

- *The Irreligious Life* - online teaching series at www.themeetinghouse.ca
- Michael J. Gorman's *Cruciformity: Paul's Narrative Spirituality of the Cross*
- Dallas Willard's *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus' Essential Teachings on Discipleship*

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. Read through the quote from Dallas Willard in your notes. In what ways could we view discipleship – becoming a fully committed apprentice of Jesus – as a gift the church gives the world?
2. After briefly reviewing this week's message, including key texts, share one thing that most challenged, puzzled, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read Paul's words about the centrality of the cross in **1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5**. a) What verse or concept stands out to you the most in this passage? Why? b) Given what you know about the first-century context of the life and death of Jesus, what about the cross would be considered "foolishness," as Paul calls it? c) Compare **1:27** with Jesus' teaching in **Matthew 5:38-42**. In what ways does the weak and foolish way of Jesus shame the wise and powerful? Think of some examples of what this might look like today. d) According to **2:1-5**, what was Paul's method of evangelizing and discipling the Corinthians? What do you think that approach could look like today? Brainstorm some examples. e) Have you ever felt like you couldn't do a good job of witnessing for Jesus because you are just, well, you? How does this passage encourage you to look for ways that God wants to use you?

SO WHAT?...

4. Think about your own life. What opportunities do you currently have to demonstrate the cruciform nature of God's heart to others? Take time to pray for each other, that our hearts and lives might take cruciform shape in specific ways this week.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, April 29 / May 6, 2007