

The Word of the Cross (Part 2)
Matthew 16:21-24; Luke 9:21-23

The Word of the Cross Is Not Only a Divine Revelation, It Is Also a Command Invitation
- Matt 16:24

"If Anyone Wishes" - The Invitation Is Open to All

- It calls for a free response to God's love
- To refuse implies unwillingness over inability
...to abide by the terms of Another

"Let Him Deny Himself"

- At the cross, our "self" doesn't cease to be, it ceases to be what it once was - II Cor 5:17;
Col 3:9-10
- God doesn't straighten out the old self, He "crosses" it out! - Ga 2:20
...the self we deny is our former "cross-less" self
...we "lose" this false self in order to "find" our true selves in Christ - Matt 16:25

"Take Up His Cross Daily"

- We can't borrow someone else's "cross-life"
- We are called to a daily cooperation with His operation of applying the cross to all our experience - Ga 2:20
- Ways we may refuse this:
...cling to the past ...to the offenses of others ...to self-righteousness
...to fantasies
...to resist the word of the cross is to cling to excuses for sameness

"Follow Me"

- We are never in step with Jesus Christ apart from the cross