

The Word of the Cross - Part 3  
Matthew 16:21-24

The Word of the Cross Is Both a Divine Revelation and a Command Invitation

...revelation of the nature of God

...an invitation to participate in His Life

To Follow Christ Is to Pursue God's Interests, Not Man's - Matt 16:23

Man's Interests (Peter)

God's Interests (Jesus)

Self-determination

God-determination

Arguing with the Word

Submitting to the Word

Self-preservation

Self-expenditure

To Follow Christ Is to Get in Step with God's Interests - Mk 1:17

- Calls for a decisive break with the past to enter into a new future

- Calls for us to leave the "world" as our source/supply

Three Fundamental Components:

1) Surrender - Faithful Obedience to the will of God - Ro 5:19; Ga 1:4; Phil 2:8

- A God-referenced set of our hearts and minds - Jo 8:29; Col 3:1-4

- A disavowal of all other voices but God's - Matt 4:4

2) Suffering - Prepare for soul/body pain - Matt 16:21; Lk 24:25-26; Heb 5:7

- We may experience anguish because we are doing the will of God - Jo 12:17; Matt 26:37; Phil 1:29

- The need to get out of our comfort zones for the sake of others - Lk 21:12-13

3) Sacrifice - Voluntary Self-Giving - Phil 2:7-8; II Cor 8:9

- A "No" to all other compelling but the compelling of His Love - II Cor 5:14

- It is more about the gift of ourselves than of our "stuff" - Ga 2:20

This Is How We Lose Our Former/False Selves in Order to Find Our True/New Selves - Matt 16:25