

**Are there two types of Christians?** 1) Someone who made a profession of faith at some point, has received the status of a Christian, they believe in Scripture, love the stories, they believe Jesus died for them because He loves them. They don't have to commit to a sanctified and holy life. Confrontation of sin and growth is a private matter. OR 2) It is one who made a profession of faith, shows the fruits of the Spirit, and they are "all in." They serve the church, are passionate, public with their faith and desire to grow in Christ. The Gospel is a constant reminder of God's goodness to them, and they are inspired to live each day for the Lord. They have memorized Proverbs 3:5-6 and delight in the Lord and His ways.

**What is a Disciple of Christ?** a) It was used for anyone interested in listening to Jesus, i.e., the crowds and people. b) Used to describe the 12. **What is a follower of Christ?**

- In Matthew 10, Jesus is focusing on His Disciples and making sure they clearly know who a true believer in Him is and who isn't. He is teaching them the truth of the Gospel.
- V34, "Do not think," is a strong statement by the Lord. Jesus wants them to know that He came to bring conflict and not peace. This passage is similar to Luke 14:25-35.
  - In the context of Matt. 10, Jesus is teaching the 12 what the true Gospel is. In Isaiah 9:6 and John 14:27, Christ is sending peace and will bring peace.
- **What is My Part in the New Covenant? 4 Covenant Stipulations Jesus Gives to His Disciples:**
  1. **Will You Follow Christ Though Your Children Turn Against You?** V35-36, who is the true believer in this passage? Jesus quotes from Micah 7:5-6. The young were rebelling against the older, as Israel had continued its wickedness (7:3). What the watchmen (prophets) had been prophesying of Israel was going to come (7:4). In Micah, the family was at war within itself. In the new covenant, Matt. 10:34 is asking, "Will you worship Jesus as Messiah or not?"
  2. **Will You Follow Christ Though Your Parents Are Against You?** V37, is now the younger believer vs. their parents. This could include grandparents being a negative influence on their grandchildren. Chaos caused during family events, angry when their grandchildren share the Gospel with them. Ephesians 6:1 is certainly speaking to believing children that they should obey their parents whether they are saved or not. Paul deals with wives submitting to their husbands as to the Lord. Husbands loving their wives as unto the Lord.
    - Paul is teaching the church how to handle themselves in the family. That would include men, women, and children who are coming to faith in Christ and living with unbelieving family. (See 1 Pet. 3:1-7).
  3. **Will You Cherish Christ Above Your Greatest Love?** V37, is speaking to those who love their family more than Christ. Is Christ's cause more worthy than giving in to family members to make them feel comfortable about sin and rejecting Christ?
    - 2 Sam. 19:1-7, Joab confronts King David about his weeping over Absalom when Absalom desired to kill David and strip the kingdom away from him. David crossed the line and didn't take up the cause of God's holiness and righteousness and having a kingdom that would honor Him.
    - Being "worthy of Me," is a Christian who loves Christ and obeys Christ.
  4. **Will You Follow Christ as One Dead to Yourself?** V38, "take up your cross (daily- Luke 9:23)" means clearly to the audience Christ was speaking of, was a walk to their death and crucifixion. Paul is dead to himself and alive for the cause and purpose of Christ, Gal. 2:20. We are dead to ourselves and our life, and live for Christ.

### **Further Discussion and Application**

Matthew 10:39 brings the reader and listener to a place of decision. It is a place where the listener can choose to save his life and keep a self-styled religion or walk down the narrow path of losing every part of their life for the sake of Christ. What has been lost in your life that has gained you freedom from sin and a deeper love for Christ? Why is it so important to tell the new believer to not withhold a piece of their life, but to lay it all down for the sake of cross? Why is a half-hearted relationship with Christ not a biblical one?

There are many things in life that motivate us. We find cause to excel or work harder at times because something in us compels us to push forward. Why is the debt paid by Christ on the cross for our sins, the greatest gift we ever received? How have we given up our life to follow Christ? What has been the cost to follow Jesus? What more needs to be given up to follow Him closer still?

Is every decision we make filtered through a command of Christ or Scripture as our guide? What decisions would have been different in life had you used Scripture as your guide instead of human wisdom? What have you learned because of those decisions and consequences? What would you tell a younger man or woman about some of the failures you have made in life?

As you take up the cause of Christ, the narrow path becomes narrower. Your needs go down and your dependence on the Lord increases. What are the next things in your life that need to be left behind? What will it free you to accomplish for the Lord? What challenges do you have to overcome to pursue this course? Are you discipling another? Are you being discipled and challenged to live for Christ and forsake this world? What truths of the Gospel are you able to tell others?