

Christ calls us to the full enjoyment of and usefulness in the Kingdom through total abandon.

3X “he is not able to be My disciple”

1) Love for Christ must be greater than any social bond (14:26a).

- a) “Hate” is used as a comparative hyperbole.
- b) “Father and mother” strongest biological bond; “Wife” strongest legal and spiritual bond; “Children and brothers and sisters” can be the strongest affective bonds
- c) These social bonds contribute to individual security and happiness and honor.
- d) **Application:** Are you prepared for disapproval from family or damage to relationships for following Christ?

2) Love for Christ must be greater than every life ambition (14:26b-27).

- a) “Yes” is more literally “up to this measure”
- b) “even his own life” = “soul”; the essential life, without which there is no person
- c) “his own cross” = instrument of shame, torture, and death = complete self-renunciation
- d) **Application:** Will you endure shame for the sake of Christ? Suffering? Death?
 - i) Are you prepared for physical persecution and martyrdom?
 - ii) Are you prepared to be shamed for standing on Christian truth/virtue?

3) Love for Christ must be greater than all possessions (14:33).

- a) Not a call to vows of poverty, but to hold this world’s goods lightly, so that our love for Christ is unencumbered.
- b) **Application:**
 - i) Hebrews 10:32-34: You have a better and abiding possession in Christ.
 - ii) Is love of money/possessions keeping you from opportunities to serve God? Others? Is love of money/possessions causing you to sin against family or friends? Envy? Coveting? Hoarding? Overworking?

4) Such love for Christ makes us useful in the Kingdom (14:34-35).

- a) Salty = useful
 - i) Salt was used to preserve manure which was used as fertilizer for the soil.
 - ii) “Salt” was a seasoning of different minerals, which could be diluted.
 - iii) Unsalty salt is worthless; and so is a disciple who is more in love with the world than with Christ.
- b) **Application:** The disciple controlled by love for Christ builds the tower (14:28-30) and wages effective warfare (14:31-32). Have you counted the cost of following Jesus? Are you serving Him with complete abandon?

5) Such love for Christ brings the full enjoyment of the Kingdom (14:23).

- a) Previous context (14:1-24) presented the Kingdom as a banquet to be enjoyed.
- b) Many were attracted to the initial idea of the banquet. Only those with faith to trust in Jesus Christ and His paradigm for the Kingdom would enter the enjoyment of the banquet.
- c) **Application:** What do you desire of the Lord (Psalm 27)?

Doxology: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever. He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever. He has shown His people the power of His works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations. The works of His hands are faithful and just; and His precepts are trustworthy; they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name! The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever! (Psalm 111)