

Calvin: "We are all so blinded and upset by self love that everyone imagines he has a just right to exalt himself, and to undervalue all others in comparison to self...it is difficult for you to seek the advantage of your neighbor unless...you almost forget yourself....No one has rightly denied himself unless he has wholly resigned himself to the Lord, and is willing to leave every detail to his good pleasure. If we put ourselves in such a frame of mind, then, whatever may happen to us, we shall never feel miserable, or accuse God falsely because of our lot."

## **The Character of a Christ Follower**

Luke 9:23

CFBC

5/17/15

Introduction:

"Discipleship means forsaking everything to follow Christ." James Montgomery Boice

"The man who has nothing to die for has nothing to live for, he does not know what life is." James Denney

"As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with His death...we give our lives to death. Thus it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise God-fearing happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die. It may be death like that in of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow Him, or it may be death like Luther's, who had to leave the monestary and go out into the world...Jesus summons to the rich man was calling him to die, because only the man who is dead to his own will can follow Christ....The wounds and scars he receives in the fray are living tokens of this participation in the cross of his Lord." Bonhoffer

John Stott "The Christian landscape is strewn with the wreckage of derelict, half built towers..ruins of those who began to build and were unable to finish. In countries to which civilization has spread, large numbers of people have covered themselves with a decent, but thin veneer of Christianity. They have allowed themselves to become somewhat involved, enough to be respectable, but not enough to be uncomfortable."

“Teachers should stress that a personal, self denying, costly, and persistent following of Christ is necessary if a person is to be acknowledged by Jesus at the final day.” Boice

Spurgeon “If you will be saved by Me, I must be your Master and you must be my servant; you cannot have Me for Savior if you do not accept Me for a Lawgiver and Commander. If you will not do as I bid you, neither shall you find rest to your souls.”

I. The Character of a follower of Christ will be the denying his own life & desires in pursuit of Christ's life & desires regardless of the personal cost. 23-25

A. The (3) Expected Characteristics of a Follower 23.

1. Self Denial

“We must not indulge our ease and appetite for then it will be hard to bear toil and weariness and lack for Christ. We must prefer happiness of soul in contrast to happiness of fulfillment.” Henry