

Fences!

Some keep you in Some keep others out

When Martin Luther launched the Protestant Reformation in 1517 by posting his “Ninety-five Theses” on the door at Wittenberg, he affirmed in the fourth thesis that salvation required self-hate. He wrote that “self-hate remains right up to entrance into the kingdom of heaven.” If you want to be Christ’s disciple, and receive forgiveness and eternal life, you must refuse to associate any longer with the person you are!

Following Christ Has Demands and Demands a Decision

John 6: 66 From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him.

Luke 14:33 And so whoever is not ready to give up all he has may not be My disciple.

Following Jesus is not about you and me.

Being a Christian is not about us; it’s not about our self-esteem. It’s about our being sick of our sin and our desperation for forgiveness. It is about seeing Christ as the priceless Savior from sin and death and hell, so that we willingly give up whatever it takes to completely follow Him.

The mandates that Jesus explained to those who would continue to follow Him were difficult. They’re not consumer-friendly or seeker-sensitive. *Christianity Lite* is nowhere to be found. These are principles that He taught consistently and repeatedly throughout His ministry, over and over again in all different settings.

Is There A Fence Between You and Jesus? Or, are you on the same side of the fence with Jesus?

The Cross is the most revolutionary thing ever to appear among men. The cross of Roman times knew no compromise; it never made concessions. The cross effects its ends by destroying one established pattern, the victim’s, and creating another pattern, its own. Thus it always has its way. It wins by defeating its opponent and imposing its will upon him. It always dominates. It never compromises, never dickers nor confers, never surrenders a point for the sake of peace. We will do one of two things concerning The Cross: we will run from it or die upon it.

~ A. W. Tozer

If You Are On the Side With Jesus You Will Lose Some Personal Relationships

Luke 14:26 If any man come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

Here is the test of competition of loyalty, whatever we love the most in this life, must be worlds apart from our love for Christ.

Matthew 10:34-35 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

If You Are On the Side With Jesus You Will Lose Some Personal Goals and Desires

Jesus is talking about maximum self-denial. *Mysteriously, this results in maximum fulfillment.*

Luke 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple.

Matthew 10:38 And he that takes not his cross, and follows after Me, is not worthy of Me.

If You Are On the Side With Jesus You Will Lose Some Personal Possessions

Luke 14:33 So likewise, whoever he be of you that forsakes not all that he has, he cannot be My disciple.

Only those willing to carefully assess the cost and invest all they had in His kingdom were worthy to enter. This speaks of something far more than mere abandonment of one's material possessions; **it is an absolute, unconditional surrender.** His disciples were permitted to retain no privileges and make no demands. They were to safeguard no cherished sins; treasure no earthly possessions; and cling to no secret self-indulgences. Their commitment to Him must be without reservation.

Give up yourself and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambition and favorite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end: submit with every fiber of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. C.S. Lewis

If You Are On the Side With Jesus You Gain a Life & Relationship with The Creator of the Universe. Purpose. Supernatural Joy. A priceless life.