



How to be a Real Christian

Matthew 16:24

Message Notes by Dr. Mark Platt

Being a Christian is a lifestyle, a journey, an all-encompassing way of living. Here in Matthew 16:24, Jesus uses the phrase *“If any man come after me”*, to describe the parameters for any person who wants to be an authentic Christian.

How does one become a Christian? How does one become a fully-devoted follower of Christ? How does a person *“come after”* Christ?

Here in this one little verse, Jesus gives the three price tags of being a real Christian:

I. Being a Christian requires self-denial

“deny yourself”

1. Self-denial is a personal choice
2. Self-denial is a spiritual choice

II. Being a Christian requires self-sacrifice

“take up your cross”

1. Self-sacrifice is for the benefit of others
2. Self-sacrifice is for the benefit of the Kingdom

III. Being a Christian requires self-surrender

“follow me”

1. Following Christ is obedience
2. Following Christ is for life

Your Response:

1. What is being a Christian costing you personally? Are there any significant sacrifices you are making for sake of others? Are you making any sacrifices you are making for the sake of the Kingdom of God? Has God been speaking to you about specific things that God would have you give up for Him?
2. Who is in charge of your life really? Is God the CEO? Are you giving Him full control of your life -- your thoughts, your finances, your relationships, your behavior, your personal habits, and your motives?
3. Do inventory of your time use. How much of your time does God have? Evaluate your checkbook too. Could anyone see that God is first in your use of your money?
4. Are you taking up a cross and giving yourself in service? Ask a pastor or a church leader if they would suggest some ways that you could serve the Lord in your church.
5. What are your life-long goals? Does God have your full mind and heart? Is His will at the top of your long-term objectives?

Resources:

To Follow Him by Mark Bailey
The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Commentary on Matthew by William Hendrickson
The Interpretation of St. Matthew's Gospel by R. C. H. Lenski
Discipleship by G. Campbell Morgan
Following Christ by Joseph Stowell