

INVESTING OUR LIFE IN JESUS

Those who have receive Christ as their Saviour, also need to be aware our new life in Christ is one of serving Him. Remembering, it was God's choice of us to serve Him.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Serving Jesus requires OBEDIENCE.

1 Samuel 15:22b Samuel replied, "...obedience is far better than sacrifice ..."

(David) *Psalms 119:33 Just tell me what to do and I will do it, Lord. As long as I live I'll wholeheartedly obey.*

The Scriptures encourages us to obey Jesus wholeheartedly in;

Love: *Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." Matthew 22:37*

Trust: *Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5*

Prayer: *You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13*

Repentance: *"Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Joel 2:12*

His Teachings: *Blessed are those who obey His written instructions. They wholeheartedly search for Him. Psalm 119:2*

We should obey Jesus enthusiastically and joyfully.

Psalm 100:2a Obey Him gladly...

Problem: The Bible says we tend to do the opposite to what Jesus wants us to do.

Romans 8:8 Those who live by their natural inclinations can never be pleasing to God.

Serving Jesus requires our heartfelt LOYALTY.

Proverbs 19:22a What is desired in a man is loyalty...

Loyalty: to show an attitude of allegiance to someone or to something. Pledging to do something unto completion.

True friendship is built on loyalty.

Proverbs 18:24 There are friends who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.

(Jesus) *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. John 15:13*

Loyal people stand by their commitments and are willing to suffer for them.

True serving is built on loyalty.

Jesus responded to His Father by submitting to His will.

John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do My will but to do the will of Him who sent Me. John 8:29b ...for I always do those things that are pleasing to Him.

Jesus was loyal by doing His Father's will to its completion. (*Matt 26:36-42*)

The cross of Jesus reveals God's determined loyalty to His covenant-relationship with us.

Serving Jesus comes from a willing allegiance to what Jesus cares for and was willing to die for.

Serving Jesus requires an attitude of HUMILITY.

Jesus is our greatest example.

Philippians 2:5-9 (msg) Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of Himself. 6: He had equal status with God

*but didn't think so much of Himself that He had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. 7: Not at all. When the time came, He set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! 8: Having become human, He stayed human. **It was an incredibly humbling process.** He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, He lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death and the worst kind of death at that: a crucifixion. 9: Because of that obedience, God lifted Him high and honored Him far beyond anyone or anything.*

Jesus was humble and willing to give up His rights in order to obey God and to serve us.

***Mark 10:45** For even I, the Son of Man, came here **not to be served but to serve others**, and to give my life as a ransom for many.*

We choose our attitude!

Serving Jesus requires a COST.

We recognise the 'cost factor' was clearly evident in the life of Jesus.

He was prepared to be inconvenienced to do God's will regardless of the personal cost to Himself – this was His lifestyle.

There should be a visible evidence of the cost factor of serving Jesus in our lives.

The ‘*cost factor*’ should be maintained in our lives if we are to remain effective in serving Jesus.

It has to be our lifestyle, the way we think and live.

Application

Circle the number that best indicates your attitude in serving Jesus in the following areas;

(1 = poor ... 10 = excellent)

Obedience 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Loyalty 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Humility 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Cost Factor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10