

Faithfully Follow Christ

Luke 9:23–27

Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels. But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the kingdom of God.”

Main Point

Truly and faithfully following Christ means giving up your autonomy, keeping an eternal perspective, and boldly claiming your allegiance to Jesus.

I. Give Up Autonomy (v. 23)

A. Deny Yourself

1. This is not just a “once and done” denial; you must deny yourself *daily*.
2. What are you to deny?
 - a) Not the care of your body (proper stewardship of your vessel is still at play).
 - b) You are to deny your own ambitions, aspirations, and will, and instead you are to yield them all to the Lordship and authority of Jesus Christ.
3. This requires humility (cf. Phil. 2:5ff).
 - a) Such humility is not native to our sin-cursed human natures.
 - b) Such humility is exemplified in Jesus Christ.
 - c) Such humility is empowered by Christ Himself.

B. Take Up Your Cross

1. A symbol of *submission*
2. A symbol of *shame*

C. Follow Jesus — A summary of the previous two commands

II. Keep Eternal Perspective (vv. 24–25)

A. Christian Paradox

1. In seeking to save your temporal life, you will lose both it and your soul.
2. In order to save your soul, you must lose your ambitions and self-autonomy.

B. Eternal Gain

1. Seeking to simply enjoy the temporal pleasures and gains of life is like making a poor financial investment.
2. Present temporal profit yields immeasurable loss.

III. Boldly Claim Allegiance (vv. 26–27)

- A. In Romans 1:16 Paul speaks about *not* being ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- B. Those who will not accept and boldly claim their allegiance to Christ will not inherit eternal life.
- C. Those who boldly confess their allegiance to Christ enjoy the gain of seeing the kingdom of God (of which glory Christ would give a glimpse in the next paragraph; v. 27).