

Special Section: Following Jesus

Lordship Living

Jesus Christ is Lord-our Master, our owner, our king. What does it mean to you?

Check yourself. In the passages that follow, Jesus taught us specifically about His relationship with His followers. For each verse, ask yourself how the statement Jesus made applies to your own life. Then put a check beside the statements that most accurately reflect your general thoughts or feelings.

Your answers are for your honest self-evaluation. Draw your own conclusions. Pray for God to reveal any areas in which you need to make changes in order to truly reflect the lordship of Christ in your life.

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself."

Luke 9:23

- I have been denying myself certain pleasures, and I believe God is pleased with that.
- I don't understand what "denying myself" means.
- I regularly pray for God to help me subordinate my will to His will in everything.
- I'm beginning to understand that I basically live for myself, and I want to learn more about living instead for Christ.

"If anyone would come after me, he must . . . take up his cross daily."

Luke 9:23

- So far, living a Christian life has not really cost me much.
- Each day I try to be willing to pay whatever it costs-in money, time, convenience, or whatever-in order to do God's will.
- To some extent I have experienced suffering for Christ's sake. Perhaps there will be more, but I have had at least a taste of it.
- Most of the suffering I've done has been a result of my own mistakes and failures.

"If anyone would come after me, he must . . . follow me."

Luke 9:23

- I sincerely want to follow Christ, but at this point I am not sure where He is leading me or what He wants me to do. I am asking Him to reveal this to me.
- I feel confident that the Lord has led me to this point in my life, and that I am now in His will.
- In all honesty, following Christ has not been the top priority in my life.
- I feel I need to know Christ better before I can effectively follow Him.

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters yes, even his own life he cannot be my disciple."

Luke 14:26

- My greatest difficulty in this area is loving my own life.
- At this point, this verse is too difficult for me to comprehend.
- The Lord truly is my highest love.
- God has reminded me that I am giving too much importance to a particular relationship with someone in comparison to my relationship with Him.

"In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple."

Luke 14:33

- I know everything I own belongs to God. I am willing to do whatever God wants with all of it.
- I feel God may want me to give away or sell some of my possessions, and am praying about this to confirm what He wants me to do.
- I believe a life of material poverty for His sake is what God desires for me.
- Some of my possessions actually seem to "own" me, to a certain extent. They determine my lifestyle and use of time more than they should.

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples."

John 8:31

- I don't have a good enough grasp of the Scriptures to really know and hold to Christ's teachings.
- God's Word is my life. I spend at least some time in the Scriptures every day.
- Somehow I don't really get much out of the Scriptures when I read them.
- I am concentrating now on actually obeying the things I have learned in the Scriptures.

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

John 10:27

- Through prayer, reading the Scriptures, and being sensitive to the presence of the Holy Spirit, I have grown in my ability to recognize the Lord speaking to me.
- I sincerely want to hear Christ's voice, but I can't say that I frequently do.
- There are many times when I don't feel close to the Lord, but I know my responsibility is to continually seek Him through prayer and the Scriptures, and I know He will reveal Himself to me.
- I have heard Christ's voice. Now I need to concentrate on following Him.