

BECOMING LIKE JESUS



11.12.17 | A Triad of Christlikeness (Part 2: Obeying)

1 John 2:3-6; 2:15-17; 5:1-5

1 John 2:3-6

3 We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4 Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For

everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 5:1-5

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Original Series Title: Following Jesus for Reals

What about following Jesus is demanded and what is negotiable? What is essential to discipleship to Christ and what is optional?

Triad of Christlikeness:

- Knowing Jesus
- Obeying Jesus
- Loving Like Jesus

1 John 2:3

We know that we have come to know [Jesus] if we keep his commands.

“Spirituality is anything that connects you to the exhilaration of being human, discovering a new part of yourself, and being fully alive... Spirituality can exist within or without religion. Some people find it in nature. Other people find it on other paths.”

- Stephen Cope, founder of the Institute for Extraordinary Living at the Kripalu Center for Yoga

“How often are our lives characterized by a high blood pressure of creeds and an anemia of deeds! We talk eloquently about our commitment to the principles of Christianity, and yet our lives are saturated with the practices of paganism... This strange dichotomy, this agonizing gulf between the ought and the is, represents the tragic theme of man’s earthly pilgrimage.”

- Martin Luther King Jr., *Strength To Love*

Knowing and Obeying Jesus:

To know and study the life of Christ, meditate on it, take in Jesus’ life and teachings, and practice in every way to bring your own life into conformity with His life and teachings.

1 John 2:6

Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Luke 12:15

“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

Matthew 5:28

“I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Luke 6:27

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”

“Not even Jesus found ‘the ready.’

Jesus called Nathaniel... Nathaniel lacked openness. Nathaniel wasn't ready.

Jesus called Philip... Philip lacked simplicity. Philip wasn't ready.

Jesus called Simon, the Zealot... Simon lacked non-violence. Simon wasn't ready.

Jesus called Andrew... Andrew lacked a sense of risk. Andrew wasn't ready.

Jesus called Thomas... Thomas lacked vision. Thomas wasn't ready.

Jesus called Judas... Judas lacked spiritual maturity. Judas was definitely not ready.

Jesus called Matthew... Matthew lacked a sense of social sin. Matthew wasn't ready.

Jesus called Thaddeus... Thaddeus lacked commitment. Thaddeus wasn't ready.

Jesus called James the Lesser... James lacked awareness. James wasn't ready.

Jesus called James and John, the sons of thunder... James and John lacked a sense of servanthood. James and John were not ready.

Jesus called Peter, the Rock... Peter lacked courage. Peter was not ready....

The point, you see, is that Jesus doesn't call the ready. Jesus calls the willing.”

- Ronald Rolheiser, *Sacred Fire: A Vision for a Deeper Human and Christian Maturity*