





Discipleship is...

A union with Christ that

1) Demands all of you

2) Defines you most of all

3) Transforms you all the way

Calling the Crowd

34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.



“ Jesus demands that his disciples take up a cross. This vivid imagery must have sounded strange before Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection but would have communicated danger and sacrifice. Public executions were a prominent feature of life. Cicero described crucifixion as a cruel, disgusting penalty, the worst of extreme tortures inflicted on slaves and something to be dreaded. The Romans made the condemned carry the transverse beam of the cross to the place of execution, where they affixed it to the execution stake.

“ By requiring disciples to carry their cross, Jesus expects them to be willing to join the ranks of the despised and doomed. They must be ready to deny themselves even to the point of giving their lives.



When Christ calls a man, he bids him
come and die.

— *Dietrich Bonhoeffer* —

AZ QUOTES



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Loss is Gain

35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul?

'CAUSE ALL OF ME LOVES ALL OF YOU
LOVE YOUR CURVES AND ALL YOUR EDGES
ALL YOUR PERFECT IMPERFECTIONS
GIVE YOUR ALL TO ME, I'LL GIVE MY ALL TO YOU
YOU'RE MY END AND MY BEGINNING
EVEN WHEN I LOSE, I'M WINNING



““ Halfway Christianity is the most miserable existence of all. Halfhearted Christians know enough about their sin to feel guilty, but they haven't gone far enough with the Savior to become happy. Wholehearted Christianity is happy, and there is no other happiness.

Romans 6:5-7

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.

Romans 6:8-11

8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.



freepaulstiver :

Paul Stiver

180 posts 243 followers 258 following

Dad, husband, lead pastor of Hope Community Church - North Lakes.



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The Christian Life



Completing
your baptism



Ongoing
discipleship
in the church



Baptism

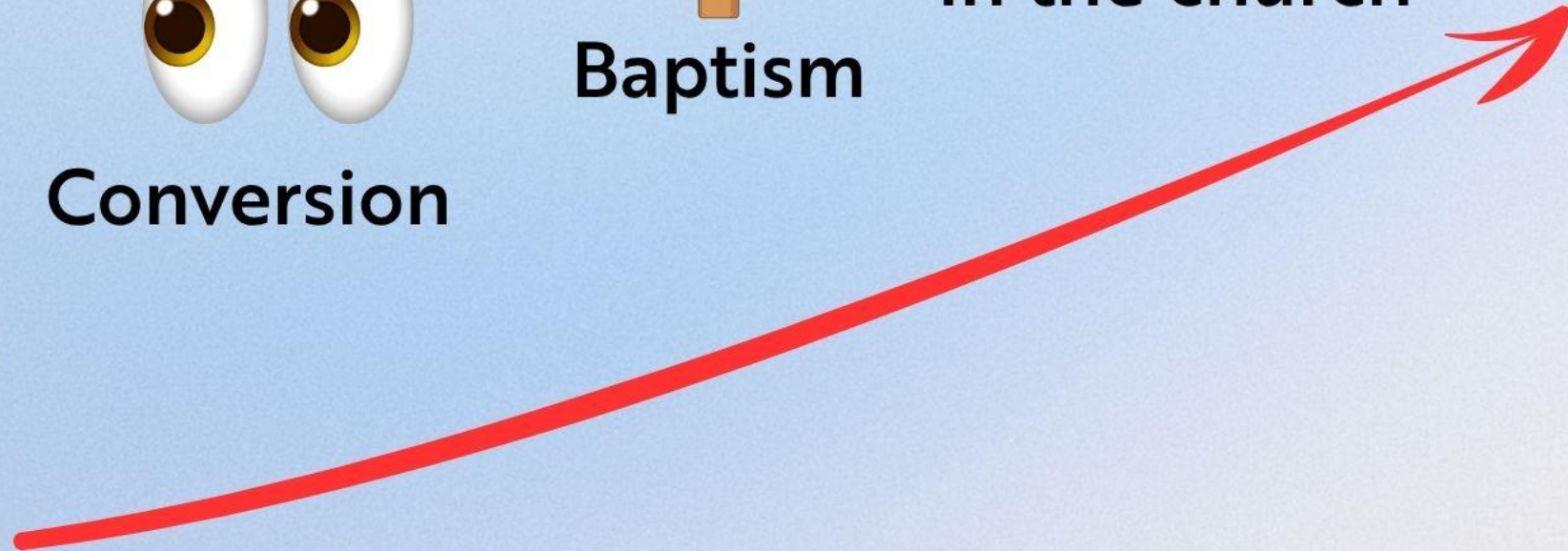


Conversion



Child

Dedication



Rejecting Our First Love

38 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

RUNAWAY BRIDE





Not Taste Death?

9:1 And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."



Jesus concludes this first lesson on discipleship requirements with a solemn promise that some of them will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God coming in power (9:1). The suffering will not go on forever. The resurrection of the Son of Man (8:31) and his coming in glory with the holy angels (8:38) removes the sting from the humiliation of a cross.



Gospel Response

Start: Turn your running shoes over to Jesus. It's time to dance.

Strengthen: Where in your life do you need to let Jesus drive or trust him with where he's taking you?