

## **Christ's Easy Yoke-10: The Need for Discipleship**

Although many think that the Christian life is very difficult (which is probably why many give up), this is not what Jesus Christ and the Word of God teach:

Matthew 11:28 "Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> "For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light."

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

I would argue that if our spiritual experience is not one that can be described as easy, light, and restful, then it is not the true Christian life. Moreover, I would argue that it is living for ourselves (our kingdom) and the world (the kingdom of the world) that is far more difficult than living for Christ's kingdom.

The means of becoming yoked with Christ is through discipleship under His teachings as described in

**Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

Discipleship under the teachings of Christ is the requirement to being yoked with Christ. I would argue that a key defect in the American form of Christianity is the lack of discipleship. All too often, a person becomes a Christian but never moves into discipleship of Christ. All too often the conversion is followed by hit and miss Bible teachings and many times these teachings are geared to tickle the ears of, to please, the converts. All too often the Christian becomes a disciple of a pastor or of a denomination in which many of the teachings of Christ are ignored or explained away. As a result, many American Christians never really grow up in Christ, they are never transformed by living with Him. This lack of maturity is evidenced by the fact that polls show that there is not that much difference between the secularism and Christians when it comes to views of family (about the same number of divorces), work, or politics. Instead of being transformed and converting the world to the better ways of Christ, the socio-political-economics of the world end up converting Christian to its secular ways due

to compartmentalization of the Christian's faith—something that is precluded from being under the discipleship of Christ, which encompasses all of life.

The problem is not that we do not have enough Christians to bring light and salt to our nation. The problem is lack of true discipleship. Recall that Jesus changed the world with only eleven disciples, who went through his three year program of discipleship teachings.

In the Easy Yoke of Christ,

Pastor Don