

It Costs to Follow Jesus . . .



If your Christianity costs you nothing, it isn't worth much.

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." (II Timothy 3:12)

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." (Romans 1:16)

"None-the-less you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." (Romans 8:15)

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:1,2)

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us." (II Timothy 2:12)

You are going to get hurt if you're going to walk with God. It's a lot easier to just look like the world, talk like the world, act like the world.

Of, course, if it should sneak out that you profess to be a Christian, people around you will begin branding you a hypocrite or a coward. And you'll get hurt anyway.

So you really can't escape it, no matter how hard you try.

For decades I've encouraged Christian parents to teach their children that they are delightedly different. Like it or not, by God's grace they are actually "better." They are kinder, more thoughtful, more helpful, more gracious, purer, less selfish.

Now, I know this will be greeted with a chorus of fears that they will grow up to be twisted, warped, misfits.

Not so if they are constantly reminded that they are better off than others with a desire to be God-like, constantly turning others to Him that they may enjoy all the blessings that they enjoy, and more. You'll still be persecuted if you speak out for the Lord and His salvation. But often you'll find that deep inside even your persecutors will envy you. And you may have the joy of winning some to Christ.

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