

Luke 9:23 NIV Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Luke 9:23 NASB And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

Romans 12:1 NIV Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--this is your true and proper worship.

Rom 6:13 NASB and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Rom 6:16 NASB Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

Rom 6:19 NASB I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

Php 1:20 NASB according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

Jesus' Slogan – Come and die

Jesus' Symbol – A Cross (an instrument of torture and execution)

- A cross is meant _____. _____.
- There are other Biblical symbols he could have chosen. A dove, a rainbow, a shepherd's staff...
- For the 1st century people, living under Roman rule, the invitation to take up the cross would have been offensive and repulsive.

The cross was a symbol of humiliation

- The Romans had numerous less expensive and less involved ways to kill people
- Crucifixion require four soldiers and a centurion to oversee
- So, why crucifixion?

Who is Jesus addressing (Read the context)
Compare both versions – how is "come after me" in the NASB translated in the NIV?

What other phrase refers to coming after Jesus?

Underline what must be denied. What is the difference between denying *oneself* and denying oneself *things*. What do they hold in common?

What is the difference between denying oneself and taking up the cross?

How often does Jesus expect us to take up the cross? Deny oneself?

Slogans

Plop, plop, fizz, fizz...

Melts in your mouth, not in your hand...

You can tell its _____, its swell...

Nobody doesn't like _____

It keeps going, and going, and going....

Where's the beef?

Philippians 2:5-8 NIV84 (5) *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: (6) Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, (7) but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. (8) And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!*

The cross was a symbol of suffering

- Preceded by scourging
“You can’t carry a cross without suffering. There is no comfortable way to carry a cross; I don’t care how you position it. I often talk to people who are convinced that some suffering or pain in their lives is an indication that they must not be following Jesus.”

Luke 6:22 NIV *Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.*

2 Timothy 3:12 NIV *In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,*

Philippians 1:29 NIV *For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,*

Ultimately the cross was a symbol of death

“Jesus invites followers to die to themselves. We die to our own desires, our pursuits, and our plans. When we become followers of Jesus, that is the end of us.”

“Jesus takes the most despised and rejected symbol of his time and says, ‘If you want to follow me, take this up’”

“Unfortunately, many churches (and Christians) today have decided that this message is too uncomfortable and the cross is too offensive.” Throttle back your faith. Jesus never wanted you to become a fanatic.

Choosing death

“I don’t mean to be uncouth, but I’ve noticed something about dead people. People who are dead don’t seem to care very much what other people think of them. ...how nice their clothes are... aren’t caught up on how much money is in their account...aren’t at all thinking about getting the promotion. Death is the ultimate surrender of yourself and all that you have. When you’re dead, you’re no longer concerned with your life.”

Choosing death daily

- \$300 – a penny a day for 82 years. **1 Corinthians 15:31 KJV** ... *I die daily.*
- This doesn’t make sense for fans. But those who practice it understand that dying is the secret to really living. It is only by dying to ourselves that we truly find life.

1 Corinthians 1:18 CEV *The message about the cross doesn't make any sense to lost people. But for those of us who are being saved, it is God's power at work.*

Luke 9:23-24 NASB *And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. (24) "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.*