

What It Costs to Follow Christ
(By Brother Omar Díaz, January 31, 2021)

Point 1

The following biblical passage shows us the cost and possible price that we should be willing to pay to be called true followers of the Lord.

Luke 14:25-33

²⁵ Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, ²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish *it*— ²⁹ lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish'? ³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. ³³ So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

Point 2

- Carrying your cross implies enduring trials and fighting against sinful desires every day of your life. It implies trying to live a life that pleases God.
- Carrying your cross implies renouncing everything you possess; it implies renouncing your dreams and your plans many times so that you can live out the plans of God.
- Salvation is obtained by grace and does not have any cost, but following Christ does have a price, and following Him does not guarantee well being and comfort on the earth.

Luke 9:57-62

⁵⁷ Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, *that* someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go."

⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head."

⁵⁹ Then He said to another, "Follow Me."

But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."

⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God."

⁶¹ And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go *and* bid them farewell who are at my house."

⁶² But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Point 3

Does that mean that you cannot take care of your family when you are following Christ?

Of course not...

1 Timothy 5.4-8

⁴ But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is [a]good and acceptable before God. ⁵ Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. ⁶ But she who lives in [b]pleasure is dead while she lives. ⁷ And these things command, that they may be blameless. ⁸ But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

But it does mean that you put Jesus Christ as your first priority...

If there is a conflict between taking care of your family and doing something else that Jesus Christ wants you to do, you have to put Jesus Christ first...

Point 4

***Mark 10:17-22

¹⁷ Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"

¹⁸ So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' "

²⁰ And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth."

²¹ Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

²² But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

For this young man, the call of God would cost him all of his fortune. We can see that rich young man was not willing to follow Jesus at any cost.

Point 5

Just like it says in the passage on which the misión of my church, Abundant Love Christian Church, is based, first we love God, and then we love other people...

Matthew 22:35-40

³⁵ Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying, ³⁶ "Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?"

³⁷ Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ And *the* second *is* like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Following Christ implies sufferings:

In this world we will have affliction:

John 16:33

³³ These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you [a]will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

(In addition, we are all going to have trials in this world, whether we walk with Christ or not. Thus, it is better to face these trials with Him...

He never leaves us, and He can help us in every situation...)

Point 6

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go ^[a] 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, ²⁰ 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." ^[b] Amen.

At the same time, we should be encouraged because after going through trials, we will always have the victory if we stay faithful to Jesus Christ, even if that victory is obtained in heaven...

2 Corinthians 2:14

¹⁴ Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us ^[a] diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

Therefore, you can be joyful even you are in a battle...

Psalm 16:11

You will show me the path of life;
In Your presence *is* fullness of joy;
At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

Point 7

To have the strength to resist the battles that are part of our lot in life, we have to stay close to the Lord.

Philippians 4:13

¹³I can do all things through ^[a]Christ who strengthens me.

It is in Christ that we can do all things. We cannot do them in our own strength.

We begin connecting ourselves with Jesus Christ by accepting Him as our Lord and Savior...

Romans 10:8-9

⁸But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Prayer of Salvation

Longer Version <http://www.abundantlovechurch.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Prayer-of-Salvation.pdf>