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Matthew 16:24 NIV

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”



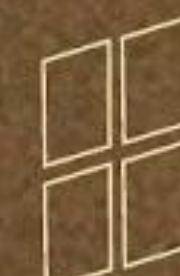
Matthew 10:37-38 NIV

“Anyone who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.³⁸ Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”



Matthew 19:21-22 NIV

Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.



Matthew 11:29 NIV

“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me...”



“ ”

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.

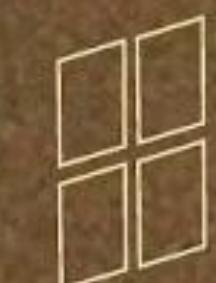
- William Ernest Henley, *Invictus*



“ ”

Let it go, Let it go...
I don't care what they're going to say...
It's time to see what I can do
To test the limits and break through
No right, no wrong, no rules for me
I'm free
Let it go, let it go

- Elsa, *Frozen*



“ ”

Live Free or Die

- New Hampshire State Motto



“ ”

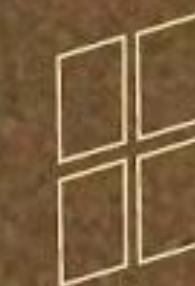
At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life.

- Supreme Court Ruling, 1992 *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey*



Reconstructing Following Jesus

MATTHEW 11:28 - 30



Reconstructing: Following Jesus

The ***what*** of following Jesus

The ***why*** of following Jesus

The ***how*** of following Jesus

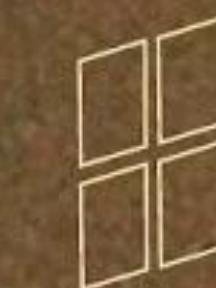


The What
The Why
The How



Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

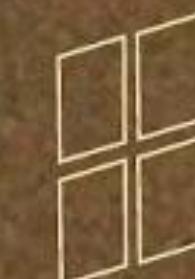
“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”



The What
The Why
The How

Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

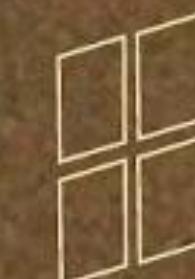
“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.²⁹ **Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,** for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”



The What
The Why
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Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.²⁹ **Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,** for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”



OBEDIENCE DONE WRONG

Selective obedience



OBEDIENCE DONE WRONG

Selective obedience

Feelings-based obedience



OBEDIENCE DONE WRONG

Selective obedience

Feelings-based obedience

Performance-based obedience



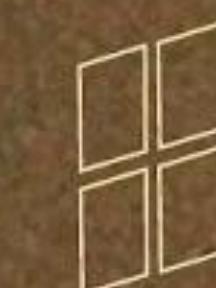
OBEDIENCE DONE WRONG

Selective obedience

Feelings-based obedience

Performance-based obedience

Apathy



The What
The Why
The How



Matthew 16:24 NIV

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Jesus says, ‘Give me ALL. I don’t want just this much of your time and this much of your money and this much of your work - so that your natural self can have the rest. I want you.’

- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*



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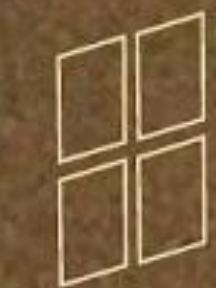
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Restriction ————— Freedom

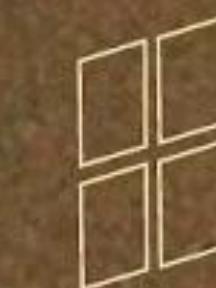


The What
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Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”



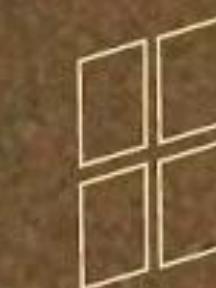
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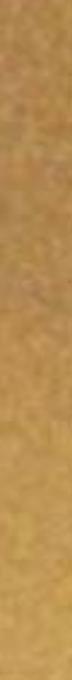
Matthew 6:21; 24 NIV

²¹ “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...

²⁴ No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

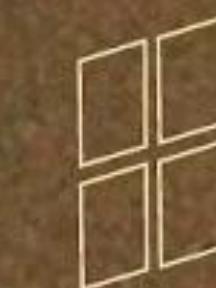


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**The only freedom a person ever has is when
he or she becomes a slave to Christ.**

- R.C. Sproul



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The What
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The How



Matthew 4:17 NIV

From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent,
for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

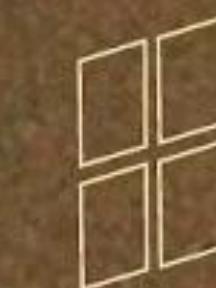


The What
The Why
The How



Matthew 28:18-20 NIV

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”



“”

With Jesus, God's rescue operation has been put into effect once for all...We are all invited—summoned, actually—to discover, through following Jesus, that this new world is indeed a place of justice, spirituality, relationship, and beauty, and that we are not only to enjoy it as such but to work at bringing it to birth on earth as in heaven. In listening to Jesus, we discover whose voice it is that has echoed around the hearts and minds of the human race all along.

- N.T. Wright, *The New Testament In Its World*

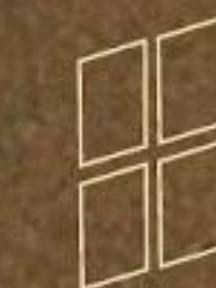


The What
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Matthew 5:14-16 NIV

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”



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