

“Am I Really a Believer?”

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Survey asked Americans: “Are you a Believer in Jesus Christ?”

Are you really a believer? This is an important question based on what Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, **that whoever believes in him** shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ **Whoever believes in him** is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe** stands condemned already because **they have not believed** in the name of God’s one and only Son.” John 3:16-18

Also, John’s Gospel records:

“The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet **to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—** ¹³ **children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”** John 1:9-13

“**Believing**” is the all-encompassing word we give to the fact that we are “**accepting**” Jesus as Messiah/Christ!

Thankfully, Jesus Himself clarifies much of this when He instructs on the costs of being a Follower, what Believing really means. Today, let’s review a basic biblical truth and then see how Jesus clarifies it.

1. God’s gift of becoming His child is granted only to those who _____!

“For it is by grace you have been saved, **through faith**—and this is not from yourselves, **it is the gift of God**—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

“You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the **demons believe that**—and shudder.” James 2:19

2. “Believing in Christ” means I embrace my new role as _____!

“...to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, **he gave the right to become children of God...**” John 1:12

3. The Price required by God to be a Kingdom Kid is _____!

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶ “**If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.** ²⁷ **And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.**

²⁸ “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰ saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

³¹ “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³ **In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.** Luke 14:25-33

“Authentic discipleship may exact from you the highest price relationally and the highest price physically.” John Piper

Have you set any boundaries with God?

Is there any area of your life where you are holding back?

As we follow Jesus, we should look to Him as our model/example!

Did Jesus hold anything back from us?

Conclusion:

Are you prepared to follow Him unconditionally even if it means forgoing what seems like this world’s best to receive what God promises will be beyond your wildest imagination?

All Scriptures are from the New International Version Bible. You may make comments or ask questions about this message at:
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