

ARE YOU A FOLLOWER?

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-6

April 14, 2024

The concept of following as a defining, and driving force of life, battles to find a place in a world that is bent on autonomy, status, power, and self-management.

Seminars thrive on topics that relate to self-significance, self-sufficiency, and belief in ourselves as capable of managing and determining our destinies.

One author states, "I have yet to hear of a seminar on *following* and I know of only one book that addresses the subject."

The trouble with followership is that it is on a collision course with a culture in which the prominent goals are power, position, autonomy, and control.

Being made in God's image means we are designed for a *reflective following* and a close and intimate relationship to our creator.

Life turned in the wrong direction when Adam and Eve, were seduced by the offer of a supposedly better and more independent kind of life.

Self-management is not only the essence of the first sin; it is the very character of sin itself.

We keep searching for something that can be found only in a restored relationship to Him, but the very thing we are searching for we refuse to find. The issue is that we really do not want to follow Christ.

If a railroad car becomes uncoupled from the engine, it would seem to be independent and free of restriction. Only now it lacks its connectedness to that which had given it meaning and purpose. It becomes motion without power or meaning.

No generation has been more free to live autonomously than our generation. In our enlightened environment, anything and everything is okay as long as it satisfies and does not inflict damage on another.

It cannot go unnoticed that this generation, which has grown up in a thoroughly do-your-own-thing, anything-goes culture, has seen its suicide rate escalate by more than 300%

Amid this all too familiar emptiness and uncertainty, Jesus Christ invites us to accompany him on an incredible journey toward a meaningful life, a secure future, and the power to significantly impact the world around us.

Many Christians often cling to strategic points of independence. We soothe our conscience by following him selectively, when it seems convenient and self-gratifying.

Addicted to what we thought were objects of liberation we look into the face of Christ, who has promised an abundant life. And Christ says, "Follow me."

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