

Knowing Jesus – Following Jesus: What Does That Mean?

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A lifelong pursuit of Jesus must go beyond mental knowledge. What does it look like when a person genuinely follows Jesus as Lord? Following Jesus is more than a song—"I have decided to follow Jesus!" Knowing Jesus is life-changing.

Frank Viola recently wrote a few words that focus the question. I share some of his thoughts edited and condensed, plus a few of my own.

Following Jesus will never be about fitting in. Following Jesus forces a decision to be separate from the world. The world being left behind includes much of contemporary Christianity—which has mostly bought into the systems and values of the world.

Following Jesus means becoming an outcast. No more seeking Christian popularity, influence, and visibility. Social media metrics do not matter. Religion that places programs above spiritual growth and depth is insufficient. So much for celebrating superficial connections that never get around to mentioning Jesus.

Following Jesus means embracing the gospel of the kingdom, pleasing the King. The new mold is totally different—and transformative. No more games. No more attracting the masses with entertainment and fun. Spiritual depth is exhilarating.

Following Jesus is more than mere church attendance. With many churches largely institutionalized, souls are hungering and thirsting, sensing there is a missing dimension to faith! No more shallowness. Genuine community, spiritual connections. Kindred spirit with all whose goal is to know Jesus!

Knowing Jesus means life can never be the same. A different way of living—different values, different goals. Knowing Jesus turns everything upside down, because we are part of an upside-down kingdom. Knowing Jesus means embracing distinctiveness.