

Whoever finds his life will  
lose it, and whoever loses  
his life for my sake will  
find it.  
Mt 10:39

Share the teaching  
Guard the sharing

# Male Call

September 14, 2007—*The Great Commission: Discipleship—Part V*

6:00 – 6:05	1) Coffee & Donuts  2) Opening Prayer
6:05 – 7:00	1) The Great Commission: <i>All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (Mt 28:18-20, NASB)</i>  <b>Romans 12:1-3</b> Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.  For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.  2 Cor. 2 12.18 Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.  <b>Rom 6:12-13</b> Do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

We are *challenged by the mercy of God.*

Notice *the plea* here, *I urge you...*

We are urged to make a *presentation to God*. . . what the Scripture calls "*the flesh* "

But we have a *problem*. There is a danger of the our submitting to the pressures around us as we live in this world. *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world...*

...but be transformed by the renewing of your mind... Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will. (v. 2b and c)

### **Reflections**

He wants this sacrifice alive. Remember, it is living sacrifices that are required. Now you may think this is contradictory. How can there be a living sacrifice after it has been sacrificed? There must be some mistake here. How can we die and live at the same time?

We must understand that the death we experience when we come to Christ is a very real one. It is a death to self. That is the cost of commitment. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die." If we are not willing to give God our all, we are not willing to truly follow Him. And when we give Him our all, we make ourselves a sacrifice, and we die. But through this death to self comes resurrection life.

This we must do. It is a *high priority* for the Christian. We cannot cultivate the Christian life before we consecrate the Christian body. This is called our spiritual act of worship. It is true worship. It is an act of worship. It is the most spiritual act we can do. Only a renewed life can delight in knowing and doing the will of God. Only a transformed mind can test the will of God, to prove that it is good, pleasing, and perfect.

The will of God is good. God only asks us to do that which is good for us. He will not hurt us by His will. He wants our best. He loves us and Jesus died for us. How could God want anything but the best for us?

The will of God is pleasing. It pleases God and will ultimately please us. This is because it will result in a right relationship with God and will secure His blessing for us.

The will of God is perfect. Not only does God want good for us, He wants the best for us. He does not want us to settle for second place in His kingdom. His will is perfectly what we need for where we are in our Christian walk. We can submit to His will gladly as believers, knowing we are in the hands of a God we can trust with our lives.

### **Certain Death**

*On the rim of a clay pot that held a plant, a biologist lined up processional caterpillars. He lined them up so that the leader was head-to-tail with the last caterpillar. The tiny creatures circled the rim of the pot for a full week. Not once did anyone of them break*

	<i>away to go over to the plant and eat. Eventually, all the caterpillars died from exhaustion and starvation.</i>
7:00	Closing Prayer

Further reading:

- The *Bible*