

Lordship: Availability

John Crawford

I. Introduction.

- A. Becoming a Christian does not solve your problems—you get a new set of problems instead.
- B. Jesus Christ should permeate the Christian's life, so he has to have integrity in all that he does.
- C. The follower of Jesus must deny himself. (Luke 9:23)

II. The value of the individual.

- A. Verses on salvation are singular or individual. (John 3:16-18; 3:36)
- B. The secret of success in ministry is treating people as individuals.
- C. Treat people as individuals.

III. It is one's relationship to the Lord that is of significance in the ministry.

IV. A man has to have a desire to come after Jesus. (John 7:17, Revelation 3:20, John 6:44)

- A. We must keep the door open for Jesus.
- B. Denying things is not the problem, but denying self is.
- C. It is hard to deny the self, but we are to go the second mile. (John 13:13, Matthew 5:41)
- D. Instead, all that we want is our way.
- E. Whatever we want to grow we have to plant in Jesus.
- F. This means we have to give what we want up to the Lord. (John 12:23)

V. Many things keep us from being available, but it is a matter of you being available. It is not a matter of the things.

- A. We usually do what we want to do.
- B. You are the issue.
- C. Deny yourself by renewing your mind. (Romans 12:1-2)

VI. A man on a cross is only going in one direction—to the grave. He is not concerned with earthy things.

- A. The Christian is an alien on this earth. (Philippians 3:20)
- B. God is able to deal with the problems of the body.

C. The cross is not necessarily a burden but it is an implement of death for the flesh.

VII. We are to follow Christ in order to become fishers of men. (Psalm 96:2)

A. Following Christ will enable.

B. The central motive is Jesus Christ.

Application questions

1. What are believers called to deny? Explain.

2. What does it mean to take up one's cross? Why is this not necessarily a burden?

3. What would your life look like if you were completely available to the Lord? Describe this in some detail.
