



Introduction: Something you learn to handle as a Christian is the reaction of your non-Christian relatives and friends. Their sarcasm or open hostility is often selfishly viewed as “persecution,” and it may be. This, however, is only a small part of the cost of being a Christian. The Lord has not promised a trouble-free lifestyle or a life free from physical or emotional pain. Anything that is worth something must cost us and, since our souls cost Jesus His very life, serving God will cost us everything. This lesson will help you evaluate the areas in which we may lose what we have because we are now committed to serving God through Jesus Christ. How we handle that loss will tell us much about our commitment! Luke 14.28-33



THE NOT/BUT PASSAGES (How to Study)



A technique used to set opposites against each other for the sole purpose of **emphasis**. It would be a mistake to treat them as two absolutes which could not co-exist. Unlike good and evil, these contrasts of good and **better** are comparatives in nature with emphasis placed on the “better”. Note these examples:

READ	NOT...	BUT...	CONSIDER
I Pet. 3.3-4			I Tim. 2.9a
I Tim. 2.9b-10			I Tim. 2.9a
Rom. 13.8			Phlm. 18-19
I Cor. 2.2			I Jn. 5.13

**COUNTING THE COST
Luke 14.28-33**

- 1) Loss of **ALL** Lk. 5.11; Rom. 12.1
- 2) Loss of **RIGHTS** Mt. 10.39; Phil 2.3-4
- 3) Loss of **FRIENDS** I Pet. 4.3-5
- 4) Loss of **FAMILY** Lk. 14.25-27; Mt. 10.34-38
- 5) Lost of **CONTROL** Eph. 5.21
- 6) Loss of **OWNERSHIP** I Cor. 6.19-20

In Matthew 16.26, this nagging question is posed by Jesus, “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” Many have given their very soul for far less than its value. What will others think? How concerned can I be if I am following the Lord?

CAUTION: As with all things spiritual, there is a trap which Satan can employ to make this great blessing of freedom become a curse of arrogance. I have often asked myself the question, “Concerning the one who influenced me most to become a Christian, what were his attributes and how did he deal with my spiritual ignorance?” My answer always returns the same: he was not boisterous but gentle, not condemning but understanding, not sarcastic but respectful, not harsh but loving. Maybe we could learn how to avoid these common symptoms of “hyper-zeal”:

- 1) self-righteousness...others may feel condemned and therefore feel judged by your life.—charge “hypocrisy”
- 2) obnoxious, untimely sermonettes...others become alienated and view you as abnormally religious.— “bible beater”
- 3) verbose reviews of personal spiritual successes...others are infuriated and learn to describe your success quite differently.
- 4) quick judgments without all the facts...others use you to confirm their misconceptions about Christianity.— “tinatic”

Therefore, let us pray the Lord will help us know when to be bold in our conversation, when to be gentle with concern, and when to understand the difference! READ Jude 21-24