



20 VISION 17

LEAVE/EMBRACE.

Even from the start of the Bible, we see the idea of leaving some things and accepting new things. Abraham leaves his homeland, and establishes a new land. Israel comes out from among the people to be separate and forms its own nation. Jesus takes this to the highest level. You are either for Him or against Him. In fact, he speaks about how our love of parents and family is to be like hatred compared to our love for Him. That's some pretty intense love.

A new love requires a new way of thinking. You are entering into a new relationship that is supposed to replace the old. Change matters. Leave behind pride, fear, doubt and cynicism. Embrace faith, hope, and love. You cannot cling to the past way of thinking and embrace the new. One of the two will win out. Who is going to win out in your relationship with Christ?

IN THE BIBLE.

Matthew 10:37-39

37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.
39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

1 Cor. 13:11-13

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Ephesians 5:1-2

1 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

QUESTIONS.

- 1.) For Christ followers, what have you had to leave behind as you continue to grow in your faith? Are there any things you're still struggling to leave behind?
- 2.) Between pride, fear, and doubt/cynicism, what is the easiest to leave behind? Hardest?
- 3.) What new things have you experienced/embraced while following Jesus? Between faith, hope, and love, what is easiest to embrace for you? Hardest?
- 4.) What does it mean to love God so much that even our deepest love for our friends and family looks like hate in comparison? What does that look like in your life?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?