

Shopping For A Cross

Jesus commanded His followers, *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"* (Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23). Too many of us want to go shopping for just the right cross rather than take up the cross of self-denial to which He referred.

Some people want a vinyl-padded cross that is not too heavy. Others look for a small, flat cross which they can put out of sight when they do not want to attract attention. Still others look for a jeweled cross which can make them part of the fashionable "in" crowd.

The cross of authentic Christian discipleship is a plain, rough, wooden cross which takes a lot of effort to carry. This is the type of cross on which Jesus was crucified. This is the cross of discipleship which His followers must carry. One important difference is that Jesus Himself has promised to stand with us and help us bear the load. This is the same one who directed *"Take up his cross"* also declared, *"For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light"* (Matthew 11:30).

Kyle Campbell