

## **Becoming like Jesus in our loyalty** (Based on Chapter 5 of *Costly Grace*)

### **The Big Idea**

Because the life of Christ flows from him through us to others, in a conflict of loyalties, Jesus always gets the higher priority.

### **Biblical Foundation**

*Those who come to me cannot be my disciples unless they love me more than they love father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and themselves as well.* Luke 14:26 (TEV)

The call of Jesus isolates us from family and friends and that is exactly how God intends it. You alone are responsible for your decision to follow or not follow him. You are responsible for your own obedience or disobedience.

Absolutely no one can stand between you and Jesus, and that is why he sounds so stern when he says, “You cannot be my disciple unless you love me more ....”

Discuss Vance Havner’s quote: “Jesus demands greater allegiance than any dictator that every lived. The difference is that Jesus has a right to it!”

### **We are ‘one with Christ’**

Jesus is the mediator between you and God. Your intimacy with him allows you to be intimate with God, but you cannot disconnect that intimacy when you interact with others. You are a unit of “one with Christ.”

Your ability to love others, to respond to them as eternal beings, comes from your connection with Jesus (1 John 4:11–12). When you try to relate with them in any other way you are trying to relate as if you are no longer connected to Jesus.

For instance, will you learn to love your spouse into the kingdom of God? Will you see the long-term consequences of your relationship?

### **Jesus calls us to community**

While Jesus calls each of us as individuals, he draws us into a fellowship that has an eternal perspective. Self-interest, manipulation, and fear no longer dominate us. We can now be who we are and our brothers and sisters can be who they are.