

GENESIS

begin. belong. believe.

not a fan.

1. If God were to have a 'DTR' with you and God's 'DTR Question' for you was '**What are your intentions with my Son Jesus?**' – how would you respond? How would you articulate to God what your intentions with His Son are? Would you say 'I'm a fan' or a 'Follower'?

– Differentiating between the Fan & the Follower –

the FAN

applauds & admires Jesus when all is well

knows a lot about Jesus

loves to be close to Jesus in order to receive some of the benefits

the FOLLOWER

BUT – when things get challenging – the applause dies down and the admiration turns to 'what have you done for me lately?'

BUT – they don't know Him in an intimate way

BUT – not close enough where anything is required of them

2. In **John 6**, Jesus is teaching ALL those that are following Him, but when Jesus teaching becomes difficult, many that followed began to turn away. One way to differentiate as to whether you are a 'fan' or a 'follower' is what you do with what Jesus said. Do you see that what Jesus said and taught is optional, or a matter of obedience?

3. As the crowds (fans) began to disperse, Jesus asked His disciples in vs. 67-69 – 'you don't want to leave me to do you? Peter quickly spoke up and said 'no' – 'to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe you are the Holy One of God.' Peter's response revealed he was more than a fan, but a follower – what about you though, how would you have responded to Jesus 'difficult teaching?' When your desires are contrary to Jesus' teaching, what do you do – follow your desires, or follow His Word?

4. Followers orient ALL of life around the Words of Jesus, as well as the mission of Jesus. Does your 'mission' – what you give yourself to reflect the mission of Jesus, or some other mission? Consider Matthew 28:16-20 – Jesus makes clear His mission so as you examine what He told us to do, is what He told us to do reflective in how you live?

5. Fans consider the mission of Jesus as a good thing to give themselves to, but it's not the only thing. In many ways, fans live divided – divided between what they want to do, and what Jesus wants them to do! Is your life 'fractured' or 'divided' by what you want to do, and what Jesus has told us to do? If yes, where do you see the 'dividing lines'?

Some Practical Helps for living as a follower and not as a fan?

A. Live in Community – in community we can process together ALL that Jesus said & be encouraged to live out the mission day to day where we are.

B. Live Repentant – when God reveals to you where you need to repent (namely of being a fan), repentance happens because repentance is a way of life for followers.

C. Live Missionally – learn to see every person in your life that does not have a relationship with God through Jesus as a Divine opportunity. God wants to use you to reach them. Living missionally means living invitationally – meaning, invite people to join you for church, for community group, for lunch, etc. Followers are continually seeking to build bridges between where people are to Jesus – thus every person & every conversation is an opportunity that God's given you to plant another seed about Jesus!