

Cotton Patch

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Clarence Jordan, author of The Cotton Patch Version, once had a pastor proudly point out a \$10,000 cross erected atop his church. Jordan remarked, "Time was when Christians could get those crosses for free."

You may have to think about this for a minute to get it. We may feel lucky that we don't live in an era where they hand out "free crosses", but we still must see our "work" as a definite commitment to that level of dedication.

The cross is not just a decoration, and we are not just onlookers here. We all know that this communion is a participation in a fellowship with Him. We must also pick up our cross. To combine and paraphrase several verses:

If anyone would **follow** me, he must **deny himself** and take up his cross **daily** and follow me.

Anyone does not is not **worthy** of me and cannot be my **disciple**.

Jesus didn't die for a bunch of rules – he died for **us**, to have a relationship with **us**. As we take this communion, we must participate, not just in His death, burial, and resurrection, but in His **consuming, unselfish, unfailing** love for everyone.