LET US FOLLOW YAHSHUA

(Written by: Brod Ephraim O. Licayan)

Many students of the Scriptures who are sincerely seeking the truth are debating or arguing on who are teaching the correct doctrines of the Bible. And many sacred name believers seemed so divided in a number of teachings, even quarrelling to the extent that, in some cases, personal relationships are sacrificed. Why? It is because they seemed to have forgotten the *Heart of the Matter*.

What is the *Heart of the Matter?* Answer: It is the simple, yet very profound teaching of the Scriptures which, if followed by all believers, can truly unify (*echad*) the body of Messiah. This teaching can really help all believers in Yahshua overcome their weaknesses.

What is this very simple, yet profound teaching? Answer: It is the call of our Savior Yahshua for His sheep TO FOLLOW HIM. Yes! TO FOLLOW YAHSHUA ALL THE DAYS OF OUR LIVES is the Heart of the Matter! It is, as a matter of fact, the only doctrine in Scriptures. To follow Yahshua is to follow the Way, the Truth and the Life! Listen to what the Scriptures declare:

- **Yachanan 1:43** –"And on the morrow, Yahshua desired to go out into Galilee. And He found Philip, and says to him, **Follow Me!"**
- **I Kepha 2:21** "For you were called to this, for even Messiah Yahshua suffered on our behalf, leaving behind an example for us, that we should **follow His steps."**
- **Yachanan 10:26-27** —" But you do not believe, because you are not My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they **follow Me.**"
- **Ephesians 4:13-15** –(13) Till we all come in the **unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of Yahweh, unto a perfect man, **unto the measure of the stature** of the fullness of Yahshua;
 - (14)That we henceforth be <u>no more children</u>, tossed to and fro, and carried <u>about with every wind of doctrine</u>, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.
 - (15)But speaking the truth in love, may we grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Yahshua HaMashiach.

Ephesians 4:15 is telling us, believers of Yahshua, to grow up in all things into the likeness of our loving and sinless Savior. Do we really want to grow into the likeness of Yahshua? Then we should, and we must, follow Yahshua all the time in order to grow into His likeness.

It is a cardinal principle in shaping human mind and personality that one becomes like the person he always follow. So if we follow Yahshua all the time, we gradually and surely grow up into the likeness of our dear Savior.

Yahshua declares in **Yachanan 10:27** that His sheep hear His voice, He knows them, and His sheep **follow Him.** No kidding, are we of His sheep? If we are, then we should follow Yahshua 24/7.

Yahshua assures us in **Yachanan 10:27-28** that those who follow Him will NEVER PERISH! What a promise! **What a guarantee and assurance of salvation** to all who follow Yahshua all the days of their lives! We should never doubt this promise because Yahshua never lie!

Yachanan 10:27-28 – "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

<u>And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish</u>, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

Let us ask ourselves the real questions: How is our walk with Yahshua? Do we follow Him 24/7? Before we pat our backs that we are following Yahshua 24/7, consider first the following tough questions:

- 1. If you cannot truly forgive those who hurt you and those who repaid your goodness with evil deeds, are you following Yahshua? Mark 11:25-26, Matthew 6:14-15, Yachanan 20:23, Matthew 5:44-46, Romans 12:14, Proverbs 25:21-22.
- 2. If pride reigns in your heart by always wanting to be told that you are the winner in any arguments, are you following Yahshua? Or if you want to get the credit and recognition of your achievements first instead of giving all the honor and praises of such achievements to Abba Yahweh, are you following Yahshua? Yachanan 15:4-5, Psalms 24:1, Micah 6:8, Philippians 2:8, Luke 18:10-14, Proverbs 16:18.
- 3. If you have greater love of money or riches, than love to Abba Yahweh, are you following Yahshua? 1 Timothy 6:10, Mark 10:17-25, Matthew 19:21-22, Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 22:37.
- 4. If you marry an unbeliever, are you following Yahshua? II Corinthians 6:14-16, Deuteronomy 7:3-4, I Corinthians 7:12-16.
- 5. If you eat pork, shrimps, junk foods and the like are you following Yahshua? III Yachanan 2, Isaiah 66:15-17, I Corinthians 10:31, Leviticus 11.
- 6. If you call on the names of Jehovah, Lord, God, Dios, Allah, Krishna etc., are you following Yahshua? Exodus 3:14-15, Isaiah 42:8, Isaiah 63:16, Yachanan 17:11-12,26, Psalms 135:13, Ezekiel 36:23, Malachi 2:1-2.
- 7. If you call the Savior by the name Jesus, are you following Yahshua? Yachanan 5:43, Philippians 2:9, Luke 1:30-31, Matthew 1:20-21
- 8. If you break the weekly Sabbath, or you do not go to the House of Worship during Sabbath, are you following Yahshua? Exodus 20:8, Matthew 5:17-18, Luke 4:16, Hebrew 10:25, Ezekiel 20:12,20
- 9. If you do not celebrate the Feasts of Yahweh, but you celebrate the pagan feasts of Christmas, Easter Sunday, Halloween, All Saints Day and All Souls Day, Patron Saints and the like, are you following Yahshua? Leviticus 23:1-44 (especially verses 1, 2, 14, 21, 31, 41 & 44), Luke 2:40-42, Yachanan

- 7:1-37, I Corinthians 5:8, Yeremyah 10:2, I Corinthians 10:19-22, II Corinthians 6:16-18, Revelation 18:4, Yeremyah 51:6
- 10. If you do not answer your homework but just copy the answer of your classmates, are you following Yahshua? Exodus 20:9, Galatians 6:4, Ecclesiastes 9:10
- 11. If you use false weights and measures in selling and/or buying merchandise, are you following Yahshua? Proverbs 11:1, Leviticus 19:35-36, Deuteronomy 25:13-15
- 12. If you are able-bodied, but you do not work to earn an income, are you following Yahshua? Exodus 20:9, II Thessalonians 3:10-11, I Timothy 5:8, I Thessalonians 4:11-12
- 13. If hateful, malicious or corrupt communication, like green jokes, comes out of your mouth, are you following Yahshua? Philippians 3:20, Ephesians 4:29-30, I Corinthians 15:33, Yachanan 2:11
- 14. *If you easily get angry, are you following Yahshua?* Yaacob 1:19-20, Ecclesiastes 7:9, Matthew 5:22, Ephesians 4:26, Proverbs 14:17,29, Proverbs 22:24-25
- 15. If you do not return the tithes, are you following Yahshua? Malachi 3:8-10, Matthew 23:23, Genesis 14:20, Hebrews 7:4,6, Genesis 28:22
- 16. If you report late to work, but you write false entries on your daily time record to show that you reported to work on time, are you following Yahshua? Exodus 20:7, 15-16, Psalms 119:128, Exodus 23:1
- 17. If you do not help the least among the brethren like the sick, the widows, the widowers, the fatherless, the motherless, the orphans etc. as a matter of Messianic duty, are you following Yahshua? Yaacob 1:27, Matthew 25:33-46, Leviticus 19:9-10, Leviticus 23:22, Deuteronomy 15:7-8, Exodus 23:11, Proverbs 14:31
- 18. If you do not regularly read and study the Scriptures, but you regularly watch television, or play computer games day-in and day-out, or always read your mobile phone, are you following Yahshua? Hosea 4:6, Exodus 20:9, Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12, Psalms 119:110
- 19. If you do not volunteer your talents, skills, money, time and efforts to the Work of Yahweh, are you following Yahshua? Yachanan 10:26-27, Acts 4:34-37, I Corinthians 12:4-14, II Corinthians 8:13-14, II Corinthians 9:5-7
- 20. If you are always worried, sorrowful and stressed of your problems, are you following Yahshua? Matthew 6:25-33, Philippians 4:4,8, Thessalonians 5:16, Psalms 150:1-6, Proverbs 17:22
- 21. If you get drunk, or smoke or addicted to drugs or engage in gambling or go to disco, are you following Yahshua? Exodus 20:13, I Yachanan 2:15-16, Proverbs 20:1, Ephesians 5:18, Proverbs 23:20-21, I Corinthians 6:9-10
- 22. If you view pornographic sites, read pornographic materials, or are into illicit sex, or acts of fornication, are you following Yahshua? Exodus 20:14, Romans 1:24-27, Ephesians 5:3-5, Yahudah 7, Genesis 6:5, I Corinthians 6:9,18-20
- 23. If you always argue with your parents, or talk even if others are still talking, are you following Yahshua? Exodus 20:12, Proverbs 20:20, Proverbs 29:11,20, Proverbs 10:19
- 24. If you deny the name Yahweh and the name Yahshua, are you following the Savior? Deuteronomy 28:10, II Chronicles 7:14, Yachanan 1:12, Revelation 7:1-4, Revelation 22:4, Ephesians 3:14-15
- 25. If you surrender to temptations and commit sin, are you following Yahshua? Hebrews 4:15-16, I Corinthians 10:12-13, Ephesians 4:23, Zechariah 4:6, Romans 8:14,18,28

The forgoing 25 questions are intended to lead us to an honest self-examination on our walk with Yahshua. They are tough questions, designed to help us objectively assess whether or not we are indeed following our perfect Savior. The questions are not intended to condemn anyone. Rather, they are there to help us evaluate our personal relationship with Yahshua. Before it is too late, I sincerely call upon you to begin an honest-to-goodness walk with Yahshua all the days of your life!

All the verses after the questions deserve your reading and meditation. Open your Scriptures unto them, and listen to the voice of the Ruach Ha Kodesh reveal to you a deeper and clearer understanding on what it means to follow Yahshua. The verses are meant to guide us to a stronger, more dynamic personal covenant relationship with our dear Savior Yahshua.

Let us look unto Yahshua, not on human leaders, as our only model of righteousness. After all, Yahshua is the Author and Finisher of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2)

There is no <u>substitute to following Yahshua</u>, and it is a matter of <u>personal responsibility</u>. No one can command, or request a friend, or pay someone else to follow Yahshua for himself. Each one of us must personally follow Yahshua all the time!

We all know that Yahshua is our Savior, Redeemer and Friend. But do we know that Yahshua is also our Judge?

Romans 14:10-12 –(10)But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you despise your brother? For we shall stand before the judgment seat of Yahshua.

(11)For it is written, "As I live, says Yahweh, every knee will bow to Me, and every tongue will confess to Elohim."

(12)So then, every one of us will give an account of himself to Yahshua.

Verily, verily at His second coming Yahshua will be our Judge! Yes, He will judge you and me! The Elohim of heaven and the earth will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil (Ecclesiastes 12:14). Those who follow Yahshua 24/7 have nothing to worry in the Day of Judgent for we have the full assurance of eternal life (Yachanan 10:27-28)

Do you want to offend the Judge of your eternal salvation? Remember this very well: it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of an offended Judge, more so if He is the Judge of our eternal salvation.

Let us follow Yahshua 24/7, brothers and sisters! And help those who want to follow him! See you in his Blessed Kingdom! Shalom.

Paminaw sa: O Sulat sa:

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