Fan or Follower

I am leading a small group study on Wednesday nights where we are discussing the book entitled *Not a Fan*, by Kyle Idleman. I would like to introduce the main points of the book in the hopes that perhaps all of us can learn how to be more than just a fan of Jesus, but instead become a completely committed follower of Jesus.

Kyle begins the book by asking his readers to seriously consider if they are a fan or a follower. He invites them to “define the relationship.” A fan is someone who is an enthusiastic admirer, but a follower is one who desires to allow Jesus to define what a follower is, and then is willing to work toward that goal.

Kyle then provides some questions to ask ourselves. The first is - Have you made a decision for Jesus, or have you committed to Jesus? This is an important question because may have made a decision to believe in Jesus without making a commitment to follow Jesus. But Jesus is looking for more than words of belief, He is looking to see how those words are worked out in your life.

The second question is - Do you just know *about* Jesus, or do you really *know* Him? Again, this is an important question to consider. If we only knew about our spouses or family members, instead of really knowing them, we wouldn’t really have a relationship.

Question number three - Is Jesus one of many or is He your one and only? To answer this question we can consider four other questions. 1) For what do you sacrifice your money? 2) When you’re hurt, where do you go for comfort? 3) What disappoints or frustrates you the most? 4) What is it that really gets you excited?

The fourth question is - Are you more focused on the outside than on the inside? In other words, do you focus on looking good on the outside rather than focusing on developing a deep relationship with Christ on the inside? Do you put on the “Sunday mask” and then take it off the rest of the week? You see, Jesus wants authenticity. He doesn’t expect followers to be perfect, but He does expect them to be authentic. If we find ourselves choosing rules over a relationship, choosing laws over love, or choosing guilt over grace we are on dangerous footing and are missing what really matters.

Finally, the last question is - Are you a self-empowered fan or a spirit-filled follower? We must come to realize that weakness is strength. When we acknowledge our weaknesses we become filled with the power of the Spirit. When we try to do things on our own, we fail because we don’t have the strength needed to succeed.

What it all comes down to is that fans usually end up drained, deflated, defeated, and burned-out. But, completely committed followers know that they have the power of the Spirit to help them navigate the trials and temptations of life.

I urge you today to take some time and evaluate for yourself if you are a fan or a follower. I believe that at times, even true followers can fall into some times of being only a fan, so perhaps it would be a good idea to take this inventory on a regular basis.

If you have never made a choice to believe in Christ and become His follower, I encourage you to do so today! If you have questions, feel free to reach out to any of the church leaders in the community so they can help you become a committed follower today!