

The MP3 Experiment

What can it teach us about following Jesus?















Experiment Participant and the Christian: Similarities

- ▶ They are volunteers



Psalms 110:3

Your people shall be volunteers
In the day of Your power;
In the beauties of holiness,
from the womb of the morning,
You have the dew of Your youth.

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Revelation 22:17

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. **Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.**

Experiment Participant and the Christian: Similarities

- ▶ They are volunteers
- ▶ They are from many places and backgrounds

Acts 10:34-35

Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. 35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.

Experiment Participant and the Christian: Similarities

- ▶ They are volunteers
- ▶ They are from many places and backgrounds
- ▶ They don't know everything that will be asked of them beforehand

Acts 9:16

For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."



Experiment Participant and the Christian: Similarities

- ▶ They are volunteers
- ▶ They are from many places and backgrounds
- ▶ They don't know everything that will be asked of them beforehand
- ▶ They have to trust the one giving instructions

John 10:2-5

... he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

Experiment Participant and the Christian: Similarities

- ▶ They can be identified by distinguishing characteristics



Participant Comments

“The fun began long before we got to the island; you could identify participants by their double T-shirts and iPods on the commuter train from Connecticut, in Grand Central and on the subways. Nobody knew what to expect, which was all part of the experience.”

Experiment Participant and the Christian: Similarities

- ▶ They can be identified by distinguishing characteristics
- ▶ The success of the project depends on many faithfully following instructions

Ephesians 4:14-16

that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Experiment Participant and the Christian: Similarities

- ▶ They can be identified by distinguishing characteristics
- ▶ The success of the project depends on many faithfully following instructions
- ▶ To observers they provoke confusion, criticism and mockery

Matthew 5:10-12

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Experiment Participant and the Christian: Similarities

- ▶ They can be identified by distinguishing characteristics
- ▶ The success of the project depends on many faithfully following instructions
- ▶ To observers they provoke confusion, criticism and mockery
- ▶ To observers they appear to be acting in harmony without any direction

Participant Comments

“Through all of this, you couldn’t stop laughing. Part of it was the weirdness of seeing 3,000 people acting in perfect unison, even though externally, there wasn’t a sound.”

Acts 4:13

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

John 13:35

By this all will know that you are My disciples,
if you have love for one another."



John 17:20-23

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 **that they all may be one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, **that the world may believe that You sent Me.** 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one:** 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and **that the world may know that You have sent Me**, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Experiment Participant and the Christian: Differences

- ▶ The one trusted



John 10:14-15

I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. 15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

Experiment Participant and the Christian: Differences

- ▶ The one trusted
- ▶ The nature of the instructions



Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Experiment Participant and the Christian: Differences

- ▶ The one trusted
- ▶ The nature of the instructions
- ▶ Possibility of misplaced trust

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

Experiment Participant and the Christian: Differences

- ▶ The one trusted
- ▶ The nature of the instructions
- ▶ Possibility of misplaced trust
- ▶ Length of time harmony was maintained

2 Timothy 2:2

And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Experiment Participant and the Christian: Differences

- ▶ The one trusted
- ▶ The nature of the instructions
- ▶ Possibility of misplaced trust
- ▶ Length of time harmony was maintained
- ▶ Level of commitment required

2 Timothy 2:3-4

You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

Revelation 2:10

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Questions

► Why not Work Together?



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- ▶ What is your level of trust in Jesus?
 - How far CAN you trust Him?
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 - What behavior do you regularly engage in that can only be explained by your faith and trust in Jesus?

Questions

- ▶ Why not Work Together?
- ▶ What is your level of trust in Jesus?
 - How far CAN you trust Him?
 - How far DO you trust Him?
 - Why the difference?
 - What behavior do you regularly engage in that can only be explained by your faith and trust in Jesus?
- ▶ Who are you following?

