



Part 3: *The Unavoidable Choice*

Being a hippie is not a matter of dress, behaviour, economic status, or social milieu. It is a philosophical approach to life that emphasizes freedom, peace, love and a respect for others and the earth. The way of the hippie never died. There have always been hippies, such as Jesus, from the first time society laid down rules.

~ Skip Stone, *Hippies From A To Z*

Probably the greatest tragedy of the church throughout its long and chequered history has been its constant tendency to conform to the prevailing culture instead of developing a Christian counter-culture.

~ John Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*

The Golden Rule not reciprocal, but initiatory. "As you would have them do to you" is the anticipatory mental act of discerning the loving thing to do that does not wait to respond to the action of another.

~ E. Eugene Boring, *The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*

According to Jesus, the salvation which God gives by grace is not static; it inevitably results in good works. Good works may not earn salvation, but they will certainly result from it.

~ D. A. Carson, *Jesus' Sermon on the Mount*

Jesus does not try to entice us along the road called discipleship by telling us that it will be easy or that many will join us along the way. The gate is narrow and the road is hard.

~ Stanley Hauerwas, *Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible*

To give witness to and to confess the truth of Jesus, but to love the enemy of this truth, who is his enemy and our enemy, with the unconditional love of Jesus Christ – that is the narrow road.

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

The implications of this teaching of Jesus are clearly that conduct *after* one becomes a full-fledged disciple will effect whether one enters into eternal life or not. One is not eternally secure until one is securely in eternity, and one's behaviour as a disciple affects that final outcome.

~ Ben Witherington III, *Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary*

The gateway leading to life is small not because it is difficult to become a Christian but because there is only one way and only a few decide to walk that road.

~ Linda K. Taylor, *Life Application New Testament Commentary*

Jesus makes it clear that true discipleship is a minority position, a matter of deliberately opting out from the mainstream.

~ R. T. France, *New Bible Commentary*

Everybody resents being faced with the necessity of a choice. But Jesus will not allow us to escape it.

~ John R.W. Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*

You might remember that the first Christians were called "followers of the Way". They had found the Way of Life and had given themselves over to it. They lived together, ate together, fought together, celebrated together. They were intimate allies; it was a fellowship of the heart. How wonderful it would be if we could find the same.

~ John Eldredge, *Waking the Dead*

I am the way.

~ Jesus