

# If Everyone Else Jumped Off A Cliff...

Long Beach Alliance Church • November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**JESUS \*SAID TO HIM, “IF I  
WANT HIM TO REMAIN UNTIL I  
COME, WHAT IS THAT TO YOU?  
YOU FOLLOW ME!”  
~ JOHN 21:22 (NASB)**

## **1) Hey... What About The Other Guy?!**

- A) Peter, who has just been told by Jesus that he is going to die a martyr's death (John 21:18-19), turns to see John and asks, "Hey, what about that guy?!" (21:20-21).
  
- B) Peter, like many of us in the church today, is infected with the "comparison pandemic." This sickness is the desire to compare ourselves with others in order to make ourselves look better, in order to justify ourselves, or (perhaps at its worst), to generate feelings of inadequacy and guilt.
  
- C) Jesus' response to Peter is sharp and blunt (21:22). Simply, it's none of Peter's business what happens with John. Christ tells Peter, "you obey regardless of what I do with others."

## **2) Curing The Comparison Pandemic**

- A) How can you and I be cured from the Comparison Pandemic?
- i. First, serve one another as though you are serving Christ (John 13:1-16; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:1-8). A servant's heart never seeks to be superior, only inferior.
  - ii. Second, only compare others and yourself with Jesus Christ (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:12-18). The Lord is the measure, never the man.
  - iii. Third, only allow your opinions and reputation to be associated with Jesus Christ, never with a particular person (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:10-13a, 26-31). If your message isn't Jesus, then (please), just shut-up.
  - iv. Fourth, do not lose heart in following Jesus Christ (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:16-18; Hebrews 12:1-3). The rewards are few on earth, but the retirement plan in Heaven is out of this world!

## **3) Clearing Up A Final Controversy**

- A) John, in an effort to set the record straight, notes that the interaction between Peter and Jesus about himself did not predict that John would not die, but just that Jesus was in control (John 21:23).
- B) John affirms that He is the one who is writing this gospel, and that he has represented the witness of those who were actually there (21:24, note the "we," cf. John 1:14).
- C) John closes his gospel account with a wondrous statement which considers the glory of Christ in history (21:25).