

My Yoke Is Easy!
Matthew 11:28-30





The Dynamics Of These Verses Have Always Been Misunderstood

- The challenge of Christianity is to endure persecution
- The challenge of Christianity is to forgive to the 99th degree
- The challenge of Christianity is to not retaliate
- The challenge of Christianity is to love our enemies and pray for their well-being
- The challenge of Christianity is to deny ourselves

*If This Is True, How Can Jesus Say His Yoke Is Easy
And His Burden Is Light?*

The Imagery Is Striking To Me!

Here is a wooden frame (yoke) set across our shoulders, rather than the ox, and it guides us to do what it wants us to do.

This doesn't sound easy or light!



I Suggest Three Reasons Why Jesus Offered This Analogy!

#1 This Is Why We Are Created

- ▶ Our necks were originally fitted for this job
- ▶ Mankind was created to glorify God and to serve him
- ▶ Sometimes in our lives we take on unnecessary burdens. 1Peter 4:15-16 (murder, thief, evildoer, busy body)



Key Text:

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me"

(Luke 9:23).



Observations

- ▶ **The reasons the yoke of Christ**, I believe, seems so difficult is that I am a sinner, and so I fight the yoke and groan every time I wear it
- ▶ I don't want the discipline that (like Matthew 16:24) which comes from wearing a yoke and would much rather go my own way (unforgiveness, bitterness, anger)





- **Beasts in Africa will wander on to the streets and put themselves in danger, and that's how we are when we desire to have our own way in life**
- **Also an ox that isn't occasionally disciplined or chastised is of no use to anybody!**
- **Hebrews 12:7 *"Endure hardships as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?"***



**There is a General Feeling, Even Among Us,
That It's Hard To Be A Christian!**

**Now You Can Be An “Ordinary
Christian” Defined As**

- **One who goes to church regularly**
- **One who tries to live decently**
- **But we also give ourselves some “slack” or “side margins” to allow for temptations and pressures the world puts upon us**



But Really It Should Be Hard To Be A Sinner and Easy To Be A Christian!

- **Being a Christian is the reason we were created**
- **A life of faith in the Son of God has the support of the Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, 2John9**
- **By living the Christian life and walking the Christian walk we are living the easy way!**
- **By trying to live this life without God, Christ and The Holy Spirit, we are living the hard way**

Observations

- ▶ I should be glad to be yoked up with Christ---Only my selfish and sinful ways would want it any differently
- ▶ Paul says in Galatians 5:1 *“It is for Freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by the yoke of slavery.”*
- ▶ We have been duped by Satan into believing that living for Christ is hard . Proverbs 13:5 says it’s the other way around!





The Second Reason Given That His Yoke His Easy:

#2 Jesus Says It is His Yoke!

- The Beautiful concept is that Jesus says He is Yoked With Us
- Think of a scrawny animal yoked up with a big muscular one
- You know that the muscular animal will pull most of the weight. So we are yoked up with Jesus and he carries most of our burdens
- The Old law (Deut. 22:10) forbid yoke an oxen and a donkey together (unfair for the ox)
- Guess who the Ox is with us and our burdens?
- Jesus is willing to voluntarily yoke up with sinners like you and me (unfair to Him)



The Third Reason Jesus Characterizes His Yoke As Light And Easy

**When His Yoke Is Compared To What I
Would Be Carrying,
My Own Self-Centered Yoke!**

- **Our own selfishness can get us into a lot of trouble**
- **James 1:13 makes this very clear**
- **If I yield to my own selfish passions, they will dominate and destroy me**



The Plan Of Salvation



Hear the Gospel	Acts 15:7
Believe the Gospel	Acts 15:7
Repent Of Sins	Acts 17:30
Confess Christ	Acts 8:37
Be Baptized	Acts 8:38