

time it came to be a term of honor. The usage of the word in 1 Peter 4 suggests the direction in which it moved and the Apostle puts stress on the fact that if one suffers as a "Christian" he may glorify God.

The term used for "follower" (Eph. 5:1, for example) is a term with the idea of imitating or doing the work of a mimic. The concept of following is not just going after someone but more the idea of being like someone. It is the thrust of being molded or suited after a pattern from another. Therefore in being followers of God...and in the Gospel sense, followers of Christ...we are to show repeated in ourselves such characteristics as may be demonstrated in these limited lives. The position of follower is not just the position of one who takes orders but is also the position of one who copies the example...on his own as well as when he is commanded.

#### B. Discussion

##### 1. The characteristics of the position of the follower.

We draw these all together from the instruction of the Lord in Mark 8 where he seems to be addressing chiefly his disciples with a broader sphere of reference to any who may hear what he has to say.

a. Nearness (proximity) "If any man will come after me..." The idea being if any will be close to me...if any will stand behind me, so to speak. The follower is close to the one he follows. The closeness may not be as true in physical things as in spiritual or mental ideas. But the follower cannot be remote to such an extent that he does not know the particulars of the one whom he follows. As believers we are "joint-heirs" "sons of God" and in this sense very near the Lord Jesus and the Father.