Coming Out of the World System

Frank Viola, and many other church teachers, call us to deny everything and follow Jesus. For example:

> *"According to Jesus, taxes belong to Caesar because Caesar's image appears on the coins. In the same way, we were made in God's image. So His image appears on us. Therefore, we belong to God.*
>
> *So I would urge you: Give your life to God. Lay yourself on that altar. But don't do it unless it's in your heart to do so. Yet if you decide to do it, do it with an utter completeness, thoroughly and totally.*
>
> *Our bodies rightfully belong to Jesus. Do you think He purchases you so He can make your life miserable and load you down with guilt and duty?*
>
> *Not at all. He bought you so you can enjoy true provision, true enjoyment, and true security in Him rather than their imitations in a counterfeit system called "the world," which I will talk about later.*
>
> *In light of His mercy and all that He has done for you, it is irrational and unreasonable for you to not give your life to Him and become "a living sacrifice." And in so doing, you have the high honor of being an agent of His already-but-not-yet kingdom."* [1]

This is not Frank's idea, it was Jesus' principle.[2] In fact, Jesus stated that if we aren't prepared to give up everything and make him the centre of our life, we're not worthy of him.[3] He even went as far as to say that we need to weigh this up before we commit to joining his Kingdom.[4]

Strong words, and ones not normally preached about. The reason? I believe it would turn people away from the church and cause the size of congregations to drop dramatically. However, Jesus didn't consider others in this respect, he just stated the facts as they were and left the people to decide whether they really wanted to be in his Kingdom or not.

Many don't like this self-denial message because it makes them feel uncomfortable. They haven't given up absolutely everything so they feel guilty when they read what Frank has written (and what Jesus said). This shouldn't be the case if we're living in the freedom and liberty of the Kingdom. The changes the Lord makes in our lives are gradual and progressive, even in the area of giving things up for him. He'll draw us in so we gradually release the things we're holding onto, and at the same time, he's not angry with us or insulted because we're not perfect. He's bigger than that. He's more loving than that. But…he does want us to desire to unload (de-clutter). He want us to realise that a divided heart hinders our relationship with him – the most important thing on his mind is this relationship.

However, self-sacrifice isn't about Spartan living or a monastic lifestyle. When we come into the Kingdom there is an exchange of the world's system for Father's system. When we break the world system's hold on us and totally rely of our King to be our resourcer (provider of a every need that we will have) he lovingly provides all good things which he's promised to do. Frank writes about this:

> *"Rather, He wants us to live with Him. By leaving all, you and I receive the peace and joy of being in God's kingdom and having access to the inexhaustible riches of Christ. Your security and prestige are no longer in money, material possessions, and worldly position. They are in Christ and His kingdom. To gain Christ, the greatest honor in history, is worth more than everything made up of atoms."* [5]

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20-10-2018
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1 – "Insurgence"p:182
2 – Matthew 16:24
3 – Matthew 10:37-38
4 – Luke 14:26-33
5 – "Insurgence"p:143