

## Observers; John 19:25-27

### I. Observers

- A. John 19:25 (ESV); but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.
- B. There are two kinds of people, observers and participants
- C. The world is full of observers
  1. A representative sent to observe but not participate officially in an activity (as a meeting or war) <sup>1</sup>
  2. The Swiss were observers in both world wars (armed neutrality)
    - a) They did react to violations of their sovereignty
    - b) Over 197 airspace violations by the Nazi's and over 6300 airspace violations by the Allies
    - c) They did shoot down planes belonging to both the Nazis and Allies
    - d) Hitler ordered plans to invade Switzerland and his planners put together Operation Tannenbaum
    - e) So while the Swiss remained neutral, they did so in name only
  3. We are often observers at sports games (although we each have a particular team that we are rooting for)
    - a) We sit in the bleachers and stadiums yelling and screaming for our team to score
    - b) February 4th we will all gather at Todd's house and observe (but not really) the Super Bowl cheering for a particular team
    - c) So we are observers, but not really
    - d) Matthew 12:30 (ESV); Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

### II. Participants

- A. In truth we are participants
- B. John 19:26–27 (ESV); <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.
- C. There is no neutrality in Christianity
- D. We participate in his death, burial and resurrection — Romans 6:3–6 (ESV); <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.
- E. We participate in the Perfect Law of Liberty
  1. John 14:15 (ESV); "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
  2. Romans 6:1–2 (ESV); <sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?
  3. There is a lifestyle we are expected to live
    - a) One without sin
    - b) One full of giving — Ephesians 4:28 (ESV); Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

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<sup>1</sup> Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

- c) One full of good works — Titus 2:14–15 (ESV); <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. <sup>15</sup> Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.
  - d) One full of love — John 13:34–35 (ESV); <sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- F. This is participation

### III. Who Will You Be

- A. An observer — one who sits on the side lines watching the game happen around them
- B. A participant — one who takes part — lives a life full of giving, good works, and love.