

Quote of Maeyken van Deventer – To Be a Follower of Christ

Isaiah 58:7

My children, love your neighbor heartily, and this with a liberal heart. Let the light of the Gospel shine in you ... Deal your bread to the hungry, clothe the naked, and do not suffer anything to remain with you double, since there are enough that Lack (Isaiah 58:7). And whatsoever the Lord grants you, that possess with thankfulness, not only for yourselves, but also for your neighbor, and seek not your own profit, but that of your neighbor. In short, my children, let your life be conformed to the Gospel of Christ.

Historical Context

Not to serve was not an option for the Anabaptists. As automatic as breathing, serving others—both within the church and beyond—was an indisputable sign of the indwelling Spirit. Jesus came to serve. Those who followed him would also become servants.

From her prison cell in Rotterdam, Holland, in 1573, Maeyken van Deventer wrote a last testament to her children, Albert, Johan, Eghert, and Truyken. In her letter she told them she could not leave them silver or gold or any of this world's treasures. What she could give them was instruction that would lead them to the eternal riches of salvation. After calling them to love and follow Christ, she described in detail what it would mean to be a follower of Christ.

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