

The Crucified Life

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Straight Paths Bible Church

(Gal 5:24) And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

(Mat 10:38) And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

(Mat 16:24) Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

(Luke 14:27) And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

- I. The crucified life is not about self-denial only.
 - A. This is by far the almost universal concept of bearing the cross.
 - B. The message is: "Not of works," but the message from that point is all about self denial and forcing yourself to abstain from things of the world.
 - C. Jesus did not simply come to the earth and abstain from worldly pleasures and sin – that is not what wrought our salvation.
 1. Our simply abstaining and denying ourselves is not what the crucified life is about.
 2. Our simply forcing ourselves to not do the things we really want to do in our heart is not the crucified life.
 3. Purposefully making our life miserable by suffering from unfulfilled desires and loneliness is not what the cross is about.
 - D. No one finds the true crucified life when they go no further than self-denial.
 - E. Most people never find what the crucified life is really about because they are instructed to self-denial and then left there.
 - F. Many fall by the wayside after following this instruction and finding themselves empty of the joy of salvation.
- II. It was sin – not self-denial that crucified the Lord.
 - A. It will be sin that crucifies us, also.
 1. You will never live a crucified life simply by denying yourself the pleasures you desire.
 - B. It was not his own sin, but the sins of others that crucified the Lord.
 1. In order to do that for us He had to lay down his life – deny himself, if you will.
 2. This is the kind of self denial that precedes a crucified life – putting others before yourself – with love as the power behind it, not self-seeking in any way.
 3. Love is of God and if the love of God has been shed abroad in your heart then you will love others – and love seeketh not her own and vaunteth not itself.
 - C. It is not our own sin that crucifies us – if that is the case then Christ died in vain.
 - D. It is the sin of others that brings us into the crucified life.
 - E. We certainly must deny ourselves in order to bear the sins of others, but self-denial is not the essence of bearing the cross.
- III. Modern Christianity has missed it almost entirely in this matter.
 - A. Christians are the worlds best example of unforgiveness.
 1. It doesn't even require sinning against each other to make them part company and hate each other.

2. All it takes is that they find something they don't agree on.
 3. All it takes is that they don't receive the attention they think they deserve from someone.
- B. Many modern Christians are vengeful and hateful over the smallest differences.
1. This is the perception the world has of the church.
- C. Modern Christians have substituted self-denial for the cross.
1. They all have different sets of standards of right and wrong and they believe that following those "rules" and avoiding things that are forbidden they are living a crucified life.
 2. These same people when confronted with someone who does them a terrible wrong are vengeful and unforgiving.

(1 Cor 6:7) Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?

- IV. When will Christians learn that the crucified life is about being like Jesus?
- A. Like Jesus - in being a savior to others.
 - B. A savior must be free from sin himself – a sinner cannot be a savior.
 1. Do you suppose that the modern teaching that we are all habitual, practicing sinners after we are saved has anything to do with the fact that there is so little cross-bearing going on?
 - C. Like Jesus - in forgiveness.
 - D. In willingness to bear the shame and pain for someone else.

The Christian is a person who makes it easy for others to believe in God. – Robert M. McCheyne

- E. How will anyone ever see Jesus if Christians are not like Christ?
- F. To be crucified means to be put to death – therefore if we are crucified with Christ we do not consider our own life because it doesn't matter anymore.

(Gal 2:20) I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

- G. We must step out of our shoes and into the shoes of Christ.
- H. We must have the same motive as He had – looking at the joy set before him.

(Heb 12:2) Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- I. We must cease from ourselves and allow Christ to rule and guide our life.
 1. Especially in the matter of wrongs done to us by others.

“Stop making what someone did to you bigger than what Jesus did for you.”

2. This is the only thing that sets us apart from the world that they recognize as divine.

Apart from faith in Christ, there is no explanation for such a life. – Author Unknown
Written on the epitaph of William Borden's grave.

Born to a wealthy Chicago businessman he renounced his fortune to be a missionary to China. Some say that after his death at age 25, Borden's Bible was found and given to his mother. In it she found in one place the words "No Reserve" and a date placing the note shortly after he renounced his fortune in favor of missions. At a later point, he had written "No Retreat", dated shortly after his father told him that he would never let him work in the company ever again. Shortly before he died in Egypt, he added the phrase "No Regrets."