

# THE CROSS OF A DISCIPLE

COMMUNION  
SUNDAY

(How The Cross Of Jesus Affects Us Today)  
I Corinthians 1:17 & 18



## THE CROSS PRODUCES:

- ◆ Favor With God
- ◆ Deliverance From Self
- ◆ Motivation For Service
- ◆ Joy In Hardship

**“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God” (I Corinthians 1:18)**

**Bill Kirk**

# “THE CROSS OF A DISCIPLE”

**Text:** I Corinthians 1:17 & 18  
**Subject:** How The Cross Affects Your Life And Mine.

## Introduction

**(Our Text Is I Corinthians 1:18)**

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God”

**(The New International Version Says)**

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God”

**(The Living Bible Says)**

“I know very well how foolish it sounds to those who are lost, when they hear that Jesus died to save them. But we who are saved recognize this message as the very power of God”

**(The Revised Standard Version Reads)**

“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God”

**(The Amplified Bible Is Powerful)**

“For the story and message of the cross is sheer absurdity and folly to those who are perishing and on their way to perdition, but to us who are being saved it is the manifestation of the power of God”

**Question:** How is the cross the power of God unto salvation?

**Question:** Why is the cross foolishness to the unbeliever?

**Question:** Why was the cross no surprise to God at Calvary?

**Question:** Why was the cross not resisted by Jesus in his final hours?

**Question:** What does the cross produce in the lives of those who embrace it?

◆ Paul said in I Corinthians 1:18, to those who are being saved, the cross is the manifestation of the power of God.

**Question:** What does the cross manifest?

**Question:** What does it produce that affects you and me?

**Question:** How does power flow from God (through the cross) to you and me?

**(Simply)**

“How does the cross affect your life today?”

### **I. The Cross Produces “Favor With God”**

**Question:** How does the cross allow God to look favorably upon us?

**Answer:** Paul explains it in Ephesians 2:16

“That Jesus might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross”

(Again In Colossians 1:20 & 21)

“Having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto himself”

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The cross is the place where God and the sinner meet.
- ◆ The cross is where heaven’s love and heaven’s justice collide.
- ◆ The cross is what satisfies the dilemma of a Holy God touching an unholy sinner.
- ◆ The cross is what produces favor with God. **(In Fact:)**
- ◆ It is the cross itself that allows God’s favor to be directed towards us today.

**Question:** What does God’s favor produce at the cross?

#1. We have forgiveness of sin:

- ◆ John 1:29, “Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world”
- ◆ Isaiah 53:10, “He made His soul an offering for sin”
- ◆ II Corinthians 5:21, “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”

#2. We have acceptance with open arms:

- ◆ Ephesians 1:6, “To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved”
- ◆ Romans 3:24, “Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”
- ◆ I Timothy 2:6, “Who gave himself a ransom for all”

#3. We have entrance into God’s presence:

**Question:** Pastor, how can I as a sinful mortal human being, approach a Holy God and walk into His presence?

- ◆ Hebrews 10:20, “By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us through the veil, that is to say His flesh”
- ◆ Hebrews 7:19, “We draw nigh unto God through the offering of Jesus”
- ◆ Hebrews 10:19, “Having therefore boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus...Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith”

#1. We have forgiveness of sin.

#2. We have acceptance with open arms.

#3. We have entrance into God’s presence.

#4. We have communion with God’s Heart:

- ◆ Exodus 25:8, “And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them”
- ◆ Exodus 25:22, “And I will meet with you and commune with you”
- ◆ Psalm 4:4, “Commune with your own heart”
- ◆ I John 1:7, “If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another”

**Question:** Do you love to commune with Jesus?

**Question:** Do you enjoy being in His presence?

**Question:** Are you grateful you’ve been accepted?

**Question:** Have you experienced forgiveness of sin?

- ◆ It is the cross that produces this favor with God!

II. The Cross Produces “Freedom From Selfishness:

**Question:** How does the cross deliver us from selfishness that steals our contentment?

**Answer:** Gazing upon the cross (by faith) releases God’s power to crucify our stubborn (carnal) nature:

- ◆ Galatians 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ”

- ◆ Romans 6:6, “Knowing this, that our old man is **crucified** with Him that the body of sin might be destroyed”
- ◆ Galatians 6:14, “God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of Jesus, by whom the world is **crucified** unto me, and I unto the world”

**Question:** What does it mean that the cross has power to crucify the world unto me?

**(It Means)**

- #1. That the cross has a **greater power** than sin’s power to dominate you.
- #2. That the cross has a **greater invitation** than sin’s invitation.
- #3. That the cross has **the ability** to attract us so much – that we will literally hate sin that nailed Jesus there!!!
- #4. That the cross has such a **beauty** to cause me to want to die to everything in my life that isn’t like Jesus!

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ The power in the cross that Paul is talking about in I Corinthians 1:18:  
Gets my self in line – Gets my desires in line – Gets my attitude in line.

**Fact:** Healthy disciples embrace Romans 6:6:

“We’ve been crucified with Christ, that henceforth we should not serve sin”

- ◆ This in non-optional (non-negotiable)
- ◆ It is God revealing the cross’s power to deliver me from selfishness which will then result in a spirit of contentment, **and a good attitude.**

**Attitude Truths**

1. “Attitude colors everything someone does”
2. “My attitude determines how I see the world and how I interact with other people”
3. “Rotten attitudes (left alone) ruin everything”
4. “The only thing more contagious than a good attitude-is a bad attitude!”
5. “Attitudes are contagious, is mine worth catching?”

**And Remember:**

- ◆ “The bottom-line source (cause) of a bad attitude is selfishness”

**Resulting From:**

- #1. “**Pride**” over one’s own self-importance.
- #2. “**Anger**” over one’s refusal to forgive past offences.
- #3. “**Jealousy**” over one’s perception of being cheated.

**Resulting In:**

- #1. “**Resentment**” that causes a person to withdraw and resist another.
- #2. “**Dissension**” that causes a person to slander and criticize.
- #3. “**Failure**” that causes a person to miss their potential in life.

**Fact:** We will eventually project on the outside how we feel on the inside!

The cross produces favor with God – The cross produces freedom from self-preoccupation.

### III. The Cross Produces "Motivation For Healthy Service:

**Question:** How does the cross produce healthy motivation for serving God?

**Answer:** Seeing its **price** – releases its **power!** (Repeat)

- ◆ II Corinthians 5:14 "For the love of Christ constraineth (**or motivates**) me, because we thus judge if one died for all then were all dead.  
(V. 15) "And that He died for all (**the price**) that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves but unto Him which died for them and rose again" (**the power**)

#### (In Other Words)

- ◆ The life of Christ as seen on the cross,
- ◆ The love of Christ displayed in humiliation,
- ◆ The love of Christ exhibited for all,
- ◆ The love of Christ hanging in the air,

- #1. Is our only Biblical motivation for service.
- #2. It is our only provocation to bear fruit.
- #3. It is our only incentive to be willing to wash each others feet.

**Question:** How does the cross affect our motivation?

**Answer:** II Corinthians 12:15 Paul said, "I will very gladly spend and be spent for you".

- ◆ The key word is gladly.
- ◆ This is the picture of a healthy disciple. (One who serves without complaint and considers it a joy to be spent for Jesus)

### IV. The Cross Produces "Joy In Hardship"

**Question:** Pastor, how can I keep my joy in the tough times (and not...)

- ...blame others for my problems?
- ...feel cheated and get sour?
- ...withdraw from the battlefield?
- ...get angry at God and people?
- ...stay depressed for long periods of time?

**Question:** How does the cross produce joy in hardship?

**Answer:** Hebrews 12: 2 & 3: "Looking unto Jesus...who for **the joy that was set before Him** endured the cross"

**Question:** What enabled Jesus to endure the cross?

**Answer:** **The joy that follows afterward.**

**Question:** How does this relate to you?

**Answer:** (V. 3) "For consider Him that endured such pain, lest you be wearied and faint in your mind.

#### (In Other Words)

- ◆ The cross reveals – that the same grace Jesus received from the Father to do the Father's will – is the same grace you receive as you do the Father's will.
- #1. Favor with God (produces healthy **self-esteem**)
  - #2. Freedom from selfishness (produces **contentment** in attitude)
  - #3. Motivation for service (produces **good fruit** and a spirit of **gratefulness**)
  - #4. Joy in hardship (produces **strength** in the difficult times)

AMEN!  
Bill Kirk, Pastor  
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