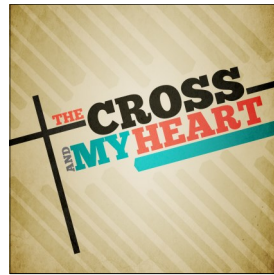


"The Cross Means Community"

Series: The Cross and My Heart
March 3, 2013

by Senior Pastor, Tom Lundeen

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom's e-newsletter
for his thoughts on various subjects at
pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)



Note Acts 2:23, 36, 42-47

"The every purpose of his self-giving on the cross was not just to save isolated individuals, and so p_____ their loneliness, but to create a new community whose members would belong to him, love one another and eagerly serve the world." (Stott)

The community of Christ is the community of His _____...
...the cross is the _____ that gives us clear directions in a dysfunctional and confused world.

So how did Jesus' work on the cross create this new community?

1. A Transformed and R_____ People

Our "_____ father" created a broken and sinful society...who despite their best efforts, cannot "_____" themselves or make themselves acceptable to God.

Note Romans 5:12, 14; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45

This new community would not have the same barriers and obstacles that the descendants of the _____ have.

Note Ephesians 2:11-16; Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 3:11; Luke 24:46-47; Revelation 7:9-10

Jesus hung on the cross and died utterly _____...

...but it was exactly because of His work on the cross that he would draw all p_____ g_____ to Himself (*note John 12:32*).

This new community...was not some a _____ of God's...but it is God's creation, and after _____, organizations, and human family units come to an end, this new community of God's people will continue on throughout eternity (*note Matthew 16:18*).

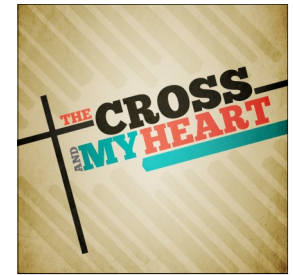
(continued on reverse)

"The Cross Means Community"

Series: The Cross and My Heart
March 3, 2013

by Senior Pastor, Tom Lundeen

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom's e-newsletter
for his thoughts on various subjects at
pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)



Note Acts 2:23, 36, 42-47

"The every purpose of his self-giving on the cross was not just to save isolated individuals, and so p_____ their loneliness, but to create a new community whose members would belong to him, love one another and eagerly serve the world." (Stott)

The community of Christ is the community of His _____...
...the cross is the _____ that gives us clear directions in a dysfunctional and confused world.

So how did Jesus' work on the cross create this new community?

1. A Transformed and R_____ People

Our "_____ father" created a broken and sinful society...who despite their best efforts, cannot "_____" themselves or make themselves acceptable to God.

Note Romans 5:12, 14; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45

This new community would not have the same barriers and obstacles that the descendants of the _____ have.

Note Ephesians 2:11-16; Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 3:11; Luke 24:46-47; Revelation 7:9-10

Jesus hung on the cross and died utterly _____...

...but it was exactly because of His work on the cross that he would draw all p_____ g_____ to Himself (*note John 12:32*).

This new community...was not some a _____ of God's...but it is God's creation, and after _____, organizations, and human family units come to an end, this new community of God's people will continue on throughout eternity (*note Matthew 16:18*).

(continued on reverse)

2. Because the Cross Means Community...

A. Commitment to follow Jesus means a commitment to a _____ church—from Acts 2...onward the Bible clearly teaches “that conversion to Christ also means conversion to the community of _____.” (Stott)...*Note Acts 2:40*—saying “yes” to Jesus is a 2-fold transfer: we transfer our personal allegiance to Jesus and our _____ connection now to His Body, His church. “Membership” is a _____ term (*note Ephesians 2:19; 5:30*).

B. Being together regularly is critically important for our spiritual _____ and development—“*Come very weekend...make it a priority to attend church every weekend.*” “A Buddhist temple never resounds with a _____ of praise. Mohammedan worshippers never sing. Their prayers are, at the highest, prayers of submission and request. They seldom reach the g_____ note of thanksgiving. They are never jubilant with the songs of the forgiven.” (Clow). “*Be part of a group.*”



1
weekend

2
group

3
serve

C. Serving with others _____ us, our communities, and other people (*note Titus 2:14*) “*Serve others...serving others using your gifts within the church, in the community and beyond.*” The new community Jesus’ cross created is not a gathering of...spectators in a stadium watching others being _____...it is created to be a group of people who are _____ on Jesus’ mission and are personally involved in ministry.

So how is the Cross intersecting my heart?

“Conversion to Christ means conversion to the community of Christ.”

- So have we said “yes” to Jesus?
- If so, have we decided to be “_____” with His Body, His Community, and His Church?

Use the connect card to tell us about a commitment you made today, and tell someone you know or a Pastor or Staff person at Riverside about the spiritual commitment you have made today!

2. Because the Cross Means Community...

A. Commitment to follow Jesus means a commitment to a _____ church—from Acts 2...onward the Bible clearly teaches “that conversion to Christ also means conversion to the community of _____.” (Stott)...*Note Acts 2:40*—saying “yes” to Jesus is a 2-fold transfer: we transfer our personal allegiance to Jesus and our _____ connection now to His Body, His church. “Membership” is a _____ term (*note Ephesians 2:19; 5:30*).

B. Being together regularly is critically important for our spiritual _____ and development—“*Come very weekend...make it a priority to attend church every weekend.*” “A Buddhist temple never resounds with a _____ of praise. Mohammedan worshippers never sing. Their prayers are, at the highest, prayers of submission and request. They seldom reach the g_____ note of thanksgiving. They are never jubilant with the songs of the forgiven.” (Clow). “*Be part of a group.*”



1
weekend

2
group

3
serve

C. Serving with others _____ us, our communities, and other people (*note Titus 2:14*) “*Serve others...serving others using your gifts within the church, in the community and beyond.*” The new community Jesus’ cross created is not a gathering of...spectators in a stadium watching others being _____...it is created to be a group of people who are _____ on Jesus’ mission and are personally involved in ministry.

So how is the Cross intersecting my heart?

“Conversion to Christ means conversion to the community of Christ.”

- So have we said “yes” to Jesus?
- If so, have we decided to be “_____” with His Body, His Community, and His Church?

Use the connect card to tell us about a commitment you made today, and tell someone you know or a Pastor or Staff person at Riverside about the spiritual commitment you have made today!