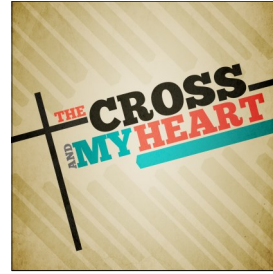


"The Cross Means Holiness"

Series: *The Cross and My Heart*
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The cross takes us on a journey of spiritual growth into spiritual _____.
So what does this journey look like?
Where does it start and what _____ are there in the process?

1. From "Come and S _____" to "Come and D _____"

Note John 1:35-39, 46; Mark 1:16-18; 8:31-34

Just as Jesus "_____" go to the cross (*note Mark 8:31*), so anyone
wanting to follow Jesus "_____" take up their cross and follow Him
(*note Luke 9:23; 14:27*).

Every Christ follower is both a "Barabbas"...and a "Simon of _____".
To take up our cross and follow Jesus is "to put oneself into the position of a
condemned man on his way to _____." (Swete).
"When Christ calls a man, he bids him to come and _____." (Bonhoeffer)

Our "cross" is not an irritable s _____...or any other specific trial,
problem, or struggle...it is symbolic of self-_____.
To "deny" ourselves is to b _____ towards ourselves as Peter did
when he denied Jesus 3 times...Peter dis _____, repudiated, and
disavowed any connection to Jesus.

Dying to self isn't denying ourselves certain pleasures...it is to "disown" ourselves,
to renounce any _____ we think we may have...

"To deny oneself is...to turn away from the i _____ of self-
centeredness." (Cranfield)

Depending on the power of the Holy Spirit, we become more and more Christ-
_____ and Christ-centered people and so increase our
connection to God in daily fellowship and personal transformation into Jesus'
image and likeness.

(continued on reverse)

2. O _____ Cross, _____ Crucifixions

Note Galatians 6:14; Romans 6:10; Hebrews 7:27b

- A. We've been crucified with _____ (*note Galatians 2:20*) - a profound spiritual reality took place on the cross, and that is when Jesus died on the cross, those who place their faith and trust in what Jesus did for them also experienced a "death"...to sin's r _____ p _____ in their lives (*note Romans 6:7*). Our _____ with Jesus in His death on the cross means sin no longer has to be the dominant force in our lives that it once was. It doesn't mean p _____...(*note 1 John 3:2*). This crucifixion sets us free from sin's shackles and power and gives us the ability to _____ to follow, love, and obey Jesus.
- B. We have crucified our sinful _____ (*note Galatians 5:24*) - our spiritually defective DNA...has been made "ineffective" and been "overthrown", but not _____. *Note Galatians 3:3*. Every sincere Christ-follower can relate to the _____ spiritual conflict between our old nature and our new, Spirit-created nature (*note Galatians 5:16-17, 24-25*). "It is an astonishing metaphor. For crucifixion was a horrible, brutal form of execution. Yet it illustrates graphically what our _____ to our fallen nature is to be. We are not to coddle it or cuddle it, not to pamper or _____ it, not to give it any encouragement or even toleration. Instead, we are to be ruthlessly _____ in rejecting it, together with its desires." (Stott)
- C. We have been crucified to the w _____, and the w _____ to us (*note Galatians 6:14*) - the "world" doesn't mean _____...but "world systems and v _____"...the world will _____ us to move away from Jesus and His truth (*note 1 John 2:15-17*). The hostility of "the world" to the community of the cross (Church) is expressed by ridicule and even open persecution, but even more through almost imperceptible _____ and infiltration of its standards and tenets. But the cross is God's instrument of t _____.

So how is the Cross intersecting my heart?

The cross takes us on a journey of spiritual _____ and spiritual health. So where are we on that journey today?

- "Come and see"?
- "Come and follow"?
- "Come and die"?
- Are we experiencing the "3 crucifixions" from Jesus' cross in our personal lives?
- Is becoming more like Jesus each day, week, month, and year a reality (we see it and so do others)?

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!