



Greater love hath no man than this ...

John 15:13

Then, speaking to all, he said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross every day and follow me. Anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, will save it. What benefit is it to anyone to win the whole world and forfeit or lose his very self? (Luke 9:23-25 NJB)

And to all he said, 'If anyone wishes to be a follower of mine, he must leave self behind; day after day he must take up his cross, and come with me. Whoever cares for his own safety is lost; but if a man will let himself be lost for my sake, that man is safe. What will a man gain by winning the whole world, at the cost of his true self? (Luke 9:23-24 NEB)

May I never glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Galatians 6:14

Understanding The Mystery

If an archeologist were uncovering an ancient ruin and came across a marking on the structure, it would signal identity of the building. Should it be a cross, the structure would be marked as "Christian." The cross is the single universal emblem (symbol) of the Christian faith. Instead of being embarrassed by the execution of Jesus – his followers embrace his horrid death and have made it the cornerstone of their message and their badge of honor. 1 Corinthians 2:2. The cross is profoundly more than something that happened to Jesus.

- 1) *Christ's cross measures all Biblical interpretation*
- 2) *The cross reveals sin*
- 3) *It establishes Christian values and measures life*
- 4) *It declares what is true Christian discipleship*
- 5) *The cross is personal*

Everything that is authentically Christian must conform to the cross so as to be measured by Christ himself. True and real salvation and ministry must be centered in the Golgotha event and ethic. The Lord of the church calls us to the cross as the only universal standard to which we must more than conform – we must unite with him in the mystery of his death.

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death.

Philippians 3:10.

Table Talk

1. What do you see (envision) when you hear the phrase "the crucified life"?
2. How would living out the cross affect your daily life?
3. The sacraments teach and preach Christ.

In them the believer proclaims and experiences Christ's life in his/her life. How is life and worship related to the cross event? What do they symbolize? Some of your classes will be able to enter into thinking seriously on "what is an authentic Christian," and also discuss the difference between 'civil religion' and the life proclaimed in scripture as the one Christ expects.

Brothers be united in imitating me. Keep your eyes fixed on those who act according to the example you have from me. Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you with tears. They are destined to perish; their god is their appetite; they glory in what they should think shameful because their minds are set on earthly things.

Philippians 3:17-19